Monday
28th March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Report

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 28th March, 1949.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

CONVERSION OF *Dufferin* AS SHORE ESTABLISHMENT

*1413. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether any proposal has been made or considered to convert the *Dufferin* as a shore establishment in Bombay or at any other port?

(b) Is the ship fitted with wireless?

(c) Is it a fact that several establishments or schools of similar kind in the United States of America and the United Kingdom are situated on land near the shore?

(d) What is the maintenance cost of the ship per year and have Government examined whether the shore establishment would reduce the cost?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) No, but the question of setting up a shore establishment in addition has been considered. The decision of Government is that the *Dufferin* should be reserved only for the training of nautical cadets for whom an additional shore establishment is unnecessary and that a shore establishment should be set up for the training of marine engineers.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. In the United Kingdom there are training ships as well as shore training establishments.

(d) The average maintenance cost of the ship per year is about Rs. 48,000.

A shore establishment would not have all the advantages of a training ship. While in certain circumstances depending upon the location of the building, a shore establishment may prove cheaper to maintain than a training ship, acquiring a site and constructing a suitable building would involve considerable expense which would not be justified so long as Government have a suitable training ship.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know when this new shore establishment will come into existence, to which the Honourable Minister has made reference?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: We are actively considering this matter but as the honourable member will realise, in the case of engineering officers

the shore establishment would be expected to give them training only after they have had practical training in the nautical engineering workshops. Therefore there is sufficient time yet available for the purpose of setting up the marine engineering college which we contemplate in this connection.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: For purposes of this training will the *Dufferin* be in the stream all along and there will be an additional shore establishment?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: As I have said in the reply to the main question the *Dufferin* will be specialising in the training of administrative officers and the shore establishment to which I have made reference will be responsible for the training of engineering officers.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha: May I know if there is any proposal to acquire the *Nelson* for training in the Bombay port?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not that I am aware of.

EXPORT FROM JAPAN

*1414. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what is the total amount of business secured by Japan from traders in India so far?

(b) What are the principal articles for which orders have been placed in Japan and what is the total amount of all such orders?

(c) When are the shipments of machinery likely to arrive in India?

(d) What is the total amount of trade between Japan and India?

(e) How much of this trade will be financed in dollars?

(f) Will the value of the articles exported from India to Japan exceed our imports from that country?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) I presume that the honourable member is referring to exports from Japan to India. The amount of business contracted by Indian businessmen for import from Japan during the period July 1948 to January 1949 is 50 million dollars or Rs. 16·6 crores, but the actual import will be considerably less.

(b) A statement giving the requisite information is laid on the table of the House.

(c) Shipments of machinery of all kinds are likely to be completed by December 1949.

(d) and (f). The total amount of trade between India and Japan during the period from 1st July 1948 to 30th June 1949 as envisaged in the Trade Plan, is expected to be as follows:

Export from India: Rs. 5 crores 68 lakhs.

Import into India: Rs. 8 crores 86 lakhs.

(e) Trade with Japan is governed by an overall payments arrangement which provides for the conduct of such trade on a sterling basis.

Under the Sterling Balances Agreement, dated 9th July 1948, we are assured of convertibility into hard currency upto $14 million or £3½ million in our excess balance with Japan.

STATEMENT

Principal articles for which orders have been placed to Japan during the period July 1948 to January 1949

Article	Value of contracts	Value of shipments effected
	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton piecegoods	530 Lakhs	33·3 Lakhs
Wool	230 ,,	33·3 ,,
Rayon	600 ,,	100·0 ,,
Heavy and light machinery	300 ,,	66·6 ,,
Plywood	20 ,,	3·3 ,,
Glassware	17 ,,	3·3 ,,
Miscellaneous goods.	60 ,,	26·6 ,,
Total	16,57 lakhs.	2,66,4 Lakhs

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The quantity and value of the exports from Japan to India which the Honourable Minister has stated, is it covered by the Indo-Japanese Trade Pact signed on the 9th November?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, Sir.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The quantity referred to which period?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The period from which the trade starts to operate is from July and goes on to June 1949.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Are these Japanese goods generally cheaper and their delivery is guaranteed?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Not always.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: What is the value of the capital goods imported from Japan?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Actually imported so far?

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Yes.

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is very difficult to give a definite reply. I find that under heavy and light machinery the amount covered by the shipments actually effected up to January 1949, is 66 lakhs and odd, out of which about 50 lakhs are accounted for by textile machinery.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Was some period of grace given for these shipments sometime ago and that has recently been withdrawn?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That is not the case. As a matter of fact my honourable friend perhaps refers to the extension of the open general licence to certain categories of Japanese goods. In the very first notification it was mentioned that in order to qualify under the open general licence such goods must be shipped or despatched on or before the 31st March 1949, and there is no question of any extension being given.

Sardar Hukam Singh: Has any protest been lodged by some association?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Yes, I am aware of that.

UTILIZATION OF COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE FUND FOR EDUCATION OF LABOURERS

*1415. **Dr. Mono Mohan Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what was the expenditure that was incurred during the year 1947-48 from the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund, for spreading education among the coal mine labourers?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It is not possible to indicate precisely the amount of expenditure incurred by the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund during 1947-48 for spreading education among colliery workers. As part of a scheme for the welfare of women and children in the coalfields, Demonstration Centres are being opened at different places in the coalfield area, as opportunity occurs and finances permit, where craft education is being imparted to women and the alphabets are being taught to miners' children. Visual education is provided by the mobile cinema unit maintained by the Fund. The Fund's mobile shop vans and mobile canteens which visit the collieries periodically are provided with loudspeakers and the Fund's officers give talks for the benefit of the mining population.

A scheme for providing adult education to miners is under examination and it is proposed to construct schools for miners' children in townships which are being built as part of a general scheme for housing the coalminers.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: In the coal mine areas up till now no amount has been spent for the propugation of education among the labourers nor any school has been established.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: My honourable friend must be aware that education is a provincial subject and whenever we want to take up this question, the provincial governments are not helpful to the extent that we desire them to be. However, we are trying to do our bit in this field as well.

Seth Govind Das: Is this amount given by the Central Government for education according to the population of each province or without any such consideration at all?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: We are not giving any grants for edueation. Education is entirely a provincial subject and we will not be justified in interfering in that.

Seth Govind Das: What is done for education in those areas where there are coal mines which are under the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: Those areas are also under the provincial government. We are responsible only for trade disputes. All other things like health, education, sanitation, law and order, etc. are under the charge of the provincial government.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: May I know whether it is contemplated by the Government to establish and maintain schools for mining labourers in the mining areas?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: As I have already indicated we are going to build townships for housing the miners and in those townships it is our plan to establish schools. But as regards the maintenance of those schools that will come under the provincial sphere. How far we will contribute towards that is a matter for future consideration.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai: Is the Government aware that there is a consistent demand from the miners for giving adult education from this Fund?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: I have said in my answer that a scheme for adult education is already under examination.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Has any welfare centre been opened at * * and if so what are its activities?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: It raises a very wide question. I may as well remind you, Sir, that recently the honourable member put a question to that effect and I think I have given a very elaborate reply to it. The present question is limited to education, and I cannot offhand say what welfare activities are carried on at a particular place.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Has the centre been opened?

Mr. Speaker: I am proceeding to the next question.

CONDITIONS OF PLANTATION LABOURERS

†*1416. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether any efforts have been made to improve the working conditions of plantation labourers?

(b) What is the average monthly income for workers engaged in tea gardens, coffee estates and rubber plantations?

(c) What is the position regarding the housing facilities provided for them?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Yes. The Labour Investigation Committee set up by the Government of India in 1944 carried out an enquiry into the conditions of labour in tea, coffee and rubber plantations in India. The recommendations made by the Committee were placed before a tripartite committee in January, 1947. As a result of the decisions of the Committee an *ad hoc* dearness allowance and sickness and maternity benefits were allowed to workers. As recommended by the Committee, a number of family budgets were collected. A medical survey was also conducted. These reports were placed before the second session of the Tripartite Industrial Committee in April 1948. A further increase in dearness allowance was agreed to by the Planters. The medical standards recommended by Major Lloyd Jones were also accepted. The employment of children under 12 years was banned. A Bill embodying the principles of legislation approved of by the Committee is under preparation.

(b) From the information available a statement showing the daily earnings, the average number of days worked in a month, and the average monthly income (including the money value of food concessions) of workers has been prepared and is placed on the table of the House.

(c) Resident labour is usually housed free by the Plantation Industry. Except in very big estates the present housing conditions in plantations are not satisfactory. Regarding housing conditions in Assam, the attention of the honourable member is invited to my answer to starred question No. 995 on the 9th March, 1949. The second session of the Industrial Committee on Plantations adopted a proposal to set up Housing Boards whose functions would be to acquire and develop suitable areas for the construction of workers' houses, raise funds, administer the housing estates, organise research in house construction and availability of materials and prescribe the extent and the nature of the employer's liability for the provision of workers' houses, etc. As legislation may take some time, planters are, being persuaded to construct suitable workers' houses according to the recommendations of the Industrial Housing Sub-Committee, even before the legislation comes into force.

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

STATEMENT

Average monthly income (including money value of food concessions) of workers in plantations.

	Men			Women			Children		
	Daily earnings.	Average number of days worked in a month	Average monthly income	Daily earnings	Average number of days worked in a month	Average monthly income	Daily earnings.	Average number of days worked in a month	Average monthly income
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TEA									
Assam Valley	1 1 6	20	21 14 0	0 15 6	18	17 7 0	0 8 0 to 0 9 0	19	9 8 0 to 10 11 0
Cachar	1 0 0	20	20 0 0	0 15 0	18	6 14 0	0 8 0 to 0 9 0	20	10 0 0 to 11 4 0
Dooars and Terai	0 15 6	17	16 7 6	0 14 6	17	15 6 6	0 8 0 to 0 9 0	18	9 0 0 to 10 2 0
Darjeeling	1 1 0	17	18 1 0	1 0 0	17	17 0 0	0 7 6 to 0 10 0	18	8 7 0 to 11 4 0
South India	1 3 6 to 1 4 6	19·9	24 4 0 to 25 8 0	0 15 0 to 0 15 6	20·1	16 13 6 to 19 7 6	0 10 0	20·3	12 11 0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
COFFEE									
Madras and Coorg	0 13 0 to 1 4 0	18	14 10 0 to 22 8 0	0 10 0 to 0 14 6	16·5	10 5 0 to 14 15 3	0 5 6 to 0 9 6	16	5 8 0 to 9 8 0
RUBBER									
South India	0 14 0 to 1 2 0	18	15 12 0 to 20 4 0	0 8 0 to 0 10 0	17	8 9 0 to 10 10 0	0 5 0 to 0 7 0	21	6 9 0 to 9 3 0

DEVELOPMENT OF EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES

†*1417. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state the progress made in opening employment exchanges in every district in the country?

(b) What are the development plans for employment exchanges?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Employment Exchange or District Employment Offices have been opened in 82 districts; they have yet to be opened in 85 districts. The year-wise progress of the opening of Exchanges is as follows:

Year	Exchanges
1945	36
1946	37
1947	22
1948	6
1949	20
	97

In some bigger districts, more than one Exchange have been opened.

Arrangements have been made to open 11 District Employment Offices in Bihar and one in Coorg.

(b) The Employment Exchanges have been sanctioned until the 31st July, 1950. The question of their continuance and development has been discussed with the Provincial Governments but no definite plans have yet been formulated.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION IN C. P. W. D.

†*1418. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state the steps which are being taken to prevent corruption in the Central Public Works Department?

(b) What is the number of prosecutions launched during the last year for corruption?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) The more important of the steps taken to prevent corruption in Central Public Works Department are as follows:

(i) Whenever an irregularity is observed, strict action is taken either departmentally or through the Special Police Establishment under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(ii) The qualifications of contractors who can tender for Central Public Works Department works are being carefully revised with a view to ensuring that only qualified and competent contractors are awarded the contracts.

(iii) Restrictions have been imposed on award of contracts to contractors who are closely related to officers in the Central Public Works Department or the Works, Mines and Power Ministry.

(iv) A Central Works Advisory Board consisting of representatives of the Ministries of Works, Mines and Power and Finance and the

† Answer to this question laid on the Table, the questioner being absent.

C.P.W.D. has been set up to scrutinize tenders for works worth more than rupees five lakhs. In the case of Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D. and rupees three lakhs in the case of Superintending Engineer, Delhi Province. The recommendations of the Advisory Board in such cases are submitted to the Honourable Minister in charge of Works, Mines and Power Ministry and such contracts are awarded only with his approval.

(v) A Planning Circle has been established for standardising plans, preparing estimates and laying down specifications. With better control over the preparation of designs and estimates, irregularities will be considerably reduced.

(vi) A large number of posts in the C.P.W.D. in gazetted and non-gazetted ranks which have been kept temporary for many years and which must be retained in future will be made permanent so that the officers concerned may have a permanent stake in the Department and the necessary incentive to uphold its good name.

(b) Eight prosecutions involving twenty-two persons were launched.

EXTRACTION OF MANGANESE ORES FROM VIZIANAGRAM AND GANJAM, ORISSA

*1419. **Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether Government have examined the possibility of extracting Manganese Ores from Vizianagram and Ganjam in the Province of Orissa?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes. A list of the published and unpublished reports on the work done by the Geological Survey of India on these deposits is laid on the Table.

LIST OF PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED REPORTS

Published reports —

1. Geological Sketch of the Vizagapatam District, by William King, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. XIX, p. 165.

2. Notes on the Geology and Mineral Resources of Mayurbhanj, by P. N. Bose, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. XXXI, p. 170.

3. Manganese-ore in Vizagapatam District and Ganjam District, by T. H. Holland, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. XXXIII, pp. 95—97.

4. Manganese-ore in Gangpur State, by T. H. Holland, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. XXXVIII, p. 43.

5. Notes on the Manganese-ore Deposits of Gangpur State, Bengal and on the distribution of the Gondite Series, by L. L. Fermor, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. XLI, p. 12.

6. Manganese-ore in Bihar and Orissa, by L. L. Fermor, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. LIII.

7. Manganese in Keonjhar State, by E. H. Pascoe, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. LX, p. 45.

8. Manganese-ore bodies, estimation of value by L. L. Fermor, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. LX, p. 314.

9. Manganese in Gangpur State, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. LXII, pp. 58 and 96

10. Manganese-ore in Keonjhar State, by L. L. Fermor, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. LXV, p. 56.

11. Manganese-ore in Bamra State, by Dr. M. S. Krishnan, Dr. P. K. Ghosh, Rec. G.S.I., Vol. LXXV, prof. paper No. 8.

12. Geology of Kalahandi State, by T. L. Walker, Mem. G.S.I., Vol. XXXIII, pt. 1, p. 20.

13. Manganese-ore Deposits of India, by L. L. Fermor, Mem. G.S.I., XXXVII, part IV.

Gangpur State—p. 605.

Kalahandi State—p. 616.

Morbhanj State—p. 617.

Puri District—p. 618.

Ganjam District—pp. 1032-1037.

Vizagapatam District—pp. 1042-1115.

14. The Geology of Gangpur State, E.S.A., by M. S. Krishnan, Mem. G.S.I., Vol. 71, p. 130.

15. Trans. Min. Geol. Inst., Vol. XXX, pt. 2, Economic Minerals of Gangpur State, by M. S. Krishnan.

16. Economic Geology of Orissa by the officers of the G.S.I., page 88, (published by the Govt. of Orissa).

17. Rec. G.S.I., Vol. LXXVI, Bulletin, 9 Manganese, page 65.

18. Fore Production figures of Manganese-ore all quinquennial reviews of this Department may be consulted.

Unpublished reports—

1. Report on the Mineral Reconnaissance in the Pal Lahara State, by B. C. Gupta 1943, Progress Report for 1942-43.

2. Economic Minerals in Burma State, by Dr. H. Crookshank.

3. The Manganese occurrences near Khandaf village in Rairakhol State, by Mr. S. Krishnaswamy.

4. Report on the mineral reconnaissance in the Keonjhar State, by Rai Sahib B. C. Gupta.

5. Mineral reconnaissance in Bonai State, E.S.A., by Mr. H. Nandi.

6. Mineral resources of Daspalla State, E.S.A., by Mr. H. Nandi.

7. Report on the mineral resources of Khandpara State, by Mr. H. Nandi.

8. Mineral reconnaissance in Band State, by Mr. H. Nandi.

9. Minerals in Bonai State, by Dr. H. Crookshank.

10. Report on minerals in Rairakhol State, by Dr. H. Crookshank.

11. Report on the mineral reconnaissance of Athgarh State, by Mr. Mukti Nath.

MR. LOBO PRABHU, CUSTODIAN OF EVACUEES' PROPERTY

*1420. **Sardar Hukam Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Congressmen tried to influence Mr. Lobo Prabhu, former Custodian of Evacuees' Property in Delhi, by writing recommendatory letters to him; and

(b) if so, do Government propose to take any action against these persons attempting to influence a Public Official?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

FOODSTUFFS AT CONCESSION RATES TO MINERS IN COAL FIELDS

*1421. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Tripartite Committee was asked to examine the present system of supplying food stuffs at concession rates to miners in the coal fields of Bengal, Bihar and the Central Provinces?

(b) If so, what are the suggestions made by the Tripartite Committee?

(c) What steps are being taken to implement those suggestions?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). As there was no measure of agreement between the workers' and employers' representatives on the Food Grain Enquiry Committee, a report signed by only the official members of the Committee has been received. The views of the representatives of employers and labour on the Committee have also been forwarded. Government are now considering the recommendations made by the official members and the views of the representatives of employers and workers on the Committee.

Seth Govind Das: Are Government aware that in the Chhindwara District in C.P. Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company used to give wheat to the labourers at a concession rate and that has now been practically stopped by that company; and if so may I know what Government are doing in that matter?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: My honourable friend discussed the whole question with me day before yesterday and is in possession of all the facts.

Seth Govind Das: I may be in possession of the facts but the whole House may be interested to know the position in that area.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister may give the position in a short answer.

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: The wheat concession was withheld by Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Company and Government has already taken up the question with them.

***1422.** [POSTPONED TO BE ANSWERED ON 5TH APRIL, 1949.]

REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES FROM KASHMIR

***1423. Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of refugees from Kashmir who are at present in various parts of the Indian Union; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take in order to repatriate them?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) No definite figures are available.

(b) The matter is under consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan associating itself in any manner with this task of repatriation of these refugees to Kashmir in view of the fact that this matter is an integral part of the preparations before any plebiscite can be held?

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The honourable member should put the question to the Prime Minister. My Ministry is only concerned with the running of the Relief Camps, one at Jammu and the other for refugees who are in India.

Shri H. V. Kamath: If the chair holds the question as relevant, Sir, somebody must answer it.

Mr. Speaker: It is no doubt relevant, but it is a supplementary to a question of which the Prime Minister has had no notice.

INDIANS IN MAURITIUS, FIJI AND TRINIDAD

***1424. Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what is the total number of immigrant Indians in (i) Mauritius; (ii) Fiji; and (iii) Trinidad?

(b) Is it a fact that the Government of India are contemplating to withdraw their nationals from the above-mentioned territories?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Presumably the honourable member wishes to know the figures of Indian population in Mauritius, Fiji and Trinidad. These are 2,65,247; 1,20,063 and 1,95,747 respectively. Of these 2,64,034; 1,01,498 and 1,84,290 were born in the respective territories.

(b) No.

Seth Govind Das: Are there any Immigration laws in contemplation even in these three territories—Mauritius, Fiji and Trinidad?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I have not understood what the honourable member means by 'immigration laws'.

Seth Govind Das: For stopping further immigration.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I am not aware of any such law.

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that there is no restriction as far as emigration to these three territories is concerned?

Mr. Speaker: If he is not aware of the legislation how can he say anything?

Seth Govind Das: I first asked whether any immigration law was in contemplation in these three territories and then asked whether emigration to these three territories is possible under the present laws.

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Emigration is possible though the immigration laws when Indians first went there were not the same as they are today.

INVESTMENTS OF SOUTH INDIAN CHETTIARS IN CEYLON, BURMA, MALAYA, SIAM AND INDO-CHINA

*1425. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state what is the total amount of investments of South Indian Chettiars in (i) Ceylon; (ii) Burma; (iii) Malaya; (iv) Siam and (v) Indo-China?

(b) How do the Government of India propose to settle the question of their investments in Burma?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) No reliable information is available. The investments of South Indian Chettiars in Ceylon, Malaya and Indo-China are however estimated to be worth Rs. five crores, Rs. 17 crores and Rs. 2:14 crores respectively. The Chettiars also own about three million acres of paddy land in Burma. They have no investments in Siam.

(b) The Government of India are negotiating with the Government of Burma with a view to securing for the Chettiars equitable compensation for their lands which the Government of Burma propose to take over under the Burma Land Nationalisation Act.

VISIT OF M. C. AS TO SOVIET ASIA AND CHINESE TURKESTAN

*1426. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state when members of the Constituent Assembly (Legislative) are going to be sent abroad to visit the lands and peoples of Soviet Asia and Chinese Turkistan?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): The Government have no intention of sending any such Mission.

NEPALESE GOODWILL MISSION TO BHUTAN

*1427. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Nepal Government have been asked to approach through the Government of India in case they wish to send a Goodwill Mission to Bhutan to investigate the conditions of the Gurkhas there?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): In October 1947 the Government of India were informed that the Nepal Government desired to send an envoy with a letter and presents for the Maharajah of Bhutan.

As the External Affairs of Bhutan are regulated by the Government of India the Charge d' Affaires of Nepal in Delhi was informed that the Government of India would be glad to make their good offices available to both parties with regard to any matter which Nepal wished to take up with Bhutan.

Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung: Was it not a fact that the Nepalese Government wanted to send a Goodwill Mission on receipt of representation from the Nepalese subjects in Bhutan consequent on shooting, looting and arson of the Nepalese homes?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No, Sir.

CULTURAL ATTACHES TO INDIAN EMBASSIES

*1428. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state the names of those of our Embassies which have Cultural Attaches on their staff?

(b) What are the special qualifications of these Cultural Attaches?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

	Name of Mission	Name of Officer	Qualifications
(1)	Embassy of India, *Moscow*	Dr. H. Ghoshal	Earned a Doctorate in Russian Literature, was a lecturer in the Warsaw University was Russian Production Officer in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Knows several European and Indian languages.
(2)	Embassy of India, *Kabul.*	Shri G. L. Puri	B. A. (Punjab); studied at Cambridge, knows Pushtu and a little Persian. Honorary Assistant Secretary, Gandhi Society London and Congress League, London (August 30th November 1934) Joined A. I. V. A. and A. I. S. A. in India and worked in Wardha, Sevagram, etc. returned unopposed a N. W. F. P. Assembly in February 1946 and elected Deputy Speaker.
(3)	Embassy of India, *Rio de Janeiro.*	Shri Krishna Kripalani.	For long associated with Dr. Rabindra Nath Tagore at Santiniketan-Editor of Santiniketan Quarterly. Secretary of the All India Congress Committee. A man of high scholarship and standing in literary circles.

Seth Govind Das: Where there are no Cultural Attaches attached to our Embassies is there any proposal of sending some Cultural Attaches to those Embassies?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: No, Sir.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is the knowledge of Sanskrit and old Indian philosophy and classic Indian literature also part of the qualification for the Cultural Attaches that are sent to foreign countries?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: First of all I might inform the honourable member that there is no such grade or cadre as 'Cultural Attache'. We have Cultural Attaches in two or three places only, and qualified persons only were appointed for these posts. At present there is no intention of having any such group or grade called Cultural Attache.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if it is only the English education that is the basic qualification of such Cultural Attaches or if there are some Indian culture qualifications also needed?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: All things and all qualifications are taken into consideration.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will an Agricultural Attache go under the name of a Cultural Attache?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: In view of the answer that there are only two or three Embassies to which Cultural Attaches are attached, will the honourable member give us, instead of laying the answer on the table of the House, the qualifications of these two or three people?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: That would be reading the whole statement. If the honourable member wants to know more about it I would be very glad to furnish further information.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Are they required to put on Indian dress?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: When necessary.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: What is the total number of such attaches at the present moment?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I have already stated that there are only three.

CHANGE IN THE NOMENCLATURE "BRITISH COMMONWEALTH"

*1429. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nomenclature "British Commonwealth", has been changed to "The Commonwealth"; and

(b) if so, when?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: (a) and (b). There has been no formal change, so far as Government are aware, to the title of the British Commonwealth, although in practice the title used now is "The Commonwealth". The question was not discussed at all at the meeting of the Dominion Prime Ministers held in London in October last. After that meeting however the Commonwealth was described in the official communiques issued as "The Commonwealth".

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the issue of India's association with this Commonwealth under the active consideration of Government?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that Mr. Anthony Eden, when he was here last week, stated that in his view the older Dominions would not entertain

the idea of any change in the present symbolism of the King of England being the titular head of the Conunonwealth and further they would wish to retain the prefix "British" to the Commonwealth?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I cannot exactly say what Mr. Eden said or wrote on the subject—he may have said that but he did not say that to me.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Prime Minister's attention been drawn to the leading article in the *Hindustan Times* of March 24th, 1949, in which it has been mentioned?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No. Sir.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that Commonwealth countries have indicated their desire that India should continue her co-operation with the Commonwealth after assuming her new national status in August next?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the Prime Minister in a position to assure this House that unless and until not merely the name or title but also the form and content of this so-called Commonwealth are radically altered on a basis of racial equality, fullest political liberty and genuine democracy, free India will not associate with the Commonwealth at all?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: No, Sir. I am prepared to give no such assurances.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Why not? What are the reasons?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: If the Commonwealth must survive in some shape or the other and since India is the biggest nation in the Commonwealth, would it be possible for the Honourable the Prime Minister to get it called the Indian Commonwealth?

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: From the reply the Honourable the Prime Minister has given to my supplementary, may I conclude that the status of India after August next shall be at par with the status of Ireland in the Commonwealth?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not quite know where the month of August comes into the picture, but the status of India is going to be on a par with the status of any independent country in the world.

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that even if there is any relation with the Commonwealth, as proposed, India will remain a sovereign Republic?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it the Prime Minister's view that no matter what happens to the form and content of the Commonwealth, India will associate herself with the Commonwealth?

The Honourable Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Nobody can say that. What I said was when you are dealing with other countries and other nations you do not go about giving assurances and guarantees beforehand.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: Is the Prime Minister aware that a large majority of politically-minded people in India are for closer relations with the British Commonwealth?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Maulana Hasrat Mohani: Is the Honourable the Prime Minister satisfied that our determination to remain neutral in the matter of formation of

different blocs and also the Western European bloc, is consistent with our demand to remain neutral?

Mr. Speaker: How does it arise out of this question?

Maulana Hasrat Mohani: It arises out of the question of not remaining in the Commonwealth.

DELEGATION TO NEXT SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF U.N.O.

*1430. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the personnel of our delegation to the next session of the General Assembly of the United Nations has been settled; and

(b) if so, the names of the members of the delegation?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Yes.

(b) The names of the members to the adjourned meeting of 3rd session of the General Assembly to be held in New York on 5th April, 1949 were announced in a Press Note issued by the Government on 16th March 1949. This appeared in the local press the following day.

The members are:

Representatives

1. Mr. M. C. Setalvad (Leader).
2. Sardar H. S. Malik, High Commissioner for India in Canada.
3. Mr. B. Shiva Rao, Member, Constituent Assembly of India.
4. Shrimati Renuka Ray, Member, Constituent Assembly of India.

Alternate Representatives

5. Mr. R. R. Saksena, Consul General for India in New York.
6. Mr. C. S. Jha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs,
   (Mr. Jha will also act as Secretary-General of the Delegation).

Public Relations Officer

7. Col. Unni Nayar, Public Relations Officer, Embassy of India, Washington.

Adviser Secretary

8. Mr. M. Gopala Menon, Secretary to the Permanent Indian Delegation in New York.

Secretary

9. Mr. B. N. Nanda, Under Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Among the Members or Advisers of the delegation which is going to the United Nations next month, is there any person who has played an active role in the national freedom movement during the last thirty years?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I do not know the life-history of all the Members who are going out.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Among the Members of the previous delegations which have gone to the United Nations in the past 18 months, was there any member, apart from Mrs. Pandit, who had played such an active role in the freedom struggle?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I have not looked into the list of all delegations which we have sent up to now to the United Nations, but Government when choosing delegates looks to all the qualifications and competence and sends those who will represent us best at the meeting of the United Nations.

Shri K. Hanumanthaiya: Does the leader of the delegation hold any representative capacity in Indian public life?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: It all depends on how you consider it—whether it is political life, Congress life or Government life.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it Government's view that the freedom fighters' ranks are so bankrupt that they cannot provide any members?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. It is a question of opinion.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: In view of the ignorance expressed by my honourable friend with regard to the lives of the delegates may I know what are the criteria on which such delegations are appointed?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I told the House it is competence to represent us best and express the views of the Government of India in the best possible way.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Will Mrs. Pandit, when she goes to America as Ambassador, join this delegation next month?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I do not think so, but it is possible that when the South African question comes up she might temporarily join the delegation for a few days.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that a Member or Adviser of the delegation which went to Paris last November was prematurely recalled?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I am not aware but it is possible.

RECOGNITION TO INDIAN GOVERNMENT PRESS EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION, CALCUTTA

*1431. **Shri Harihar Nath Shastri:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether recognition has been accorded to the Indian Government Press Employees Association, Calcutta; and

(b) If not, why not?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) No.

(b) Separate rules govern the question of official recognition of Associations of Industrial and non-industrial workers and an association has to confine its membership to one particular category. As membership of the India Government Press Employees Association is open to both industrial and non-industrial workers, the Association has been asked to bring its constitution in conformity with the rules before recognition can be granted to it.

Shri Harihar Nath Shastri: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the policy of his Ministry in regard to the recognition of Trade Unions is contradictory to the policy followed by the other Ministries including Railways and Communications, where trade unions combine in them both manual and clerical labour and such unions are recognised by the Central Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Inasmuch as the question is of a general character, I propose to the honourable member to discuss that with me. But, the experience of this Ministry has been that if each category has a separate union, it is more conducive to peaceful work in the Ministry. If both the categories are combined in one Union, I presume, there would be

conflict of interest between the several sections, manual workers and non-industrial employees. It is for the honourable member to say whether the rules prevalent in my Ministry are not in the interests of the workers themselves.

Shri Haribar Nath Shastri: Has the India Government Press Employees Association made any representation to the Government to reconsider the said decision and requested that the Union should be allowed to enrol members from all the categories?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: A representation has been received and the reply given to the representation is contained in answer to part (b) of the question.

RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN THEIR ORIGINAL HOMES

*1432. **Shri Ajit Prasad Jain:** Will the Honourable Minister of Relief and Rehabilitation be pleased to state:

(a) whether it was decided in the Indo-Pakistan Conference held on 26th and 27th February, 1949 that the displaced persons should be resettled in their original homes;

(b) how it is proposed to implement this scheme;

(c) whether this decision affects the schemes of relief and rehabilitation in India; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the affirmative, how and to what extent the said schemes are affected.

The Honourable Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) to (d). Government understand that a conference attended by certain persons belonging to India and Pakistan was held on the 26th and 27th February, 1949. This conference was not held at the instance of the Government. The resolutions passed at the Conference do not affect Government schemes for relief and rehabilitation of displaced persons in India.

IMPLEMENTING THE PROVISIONS OF EMPLOYEES STATE INSURANCE ACT

*1433. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state what has been done by the Government of India so far to persuade the Provincial Governments to enforce the State Insurance and by which date the Provincial Governments are expected to enforce the same within their respective jurisdictions?

(b) What steps have been taken by the Government of India so far to implement the provisions of this Act in the Chief Commissioners' Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara, and by which date is the scheme incorporated in the Act likely to work in these areas?

(c) Has any machinery been set up or is any proposed to be set up in these areas to enforce the provisions of this Act and if so, when and what is the machinery?

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) Chapters I, II, III and VIII of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 were brought into force with effect from the 1st September, 1948. Necessary steps for bringing into force the remaining Chapters are being taken in consultation with the Provincial Governments. The provisions of the Act relating to contributions and benefits cannot, however, be brought into force until arrangements have been made for providing medical treatment to insured persons. These arrangements have

to be made by the Provincial Governments under section 58. The Provincial Health and Labour Ministers have already been requested to ensure early completion of the survey of the existing medical facilities in their Provinces and of the arrangements which may be necessary to bring them to the standard contemplated under the Act. The dates by which Provincial Governments will complete the arrangements necessary for the enforcement of the Act cannot yet be indicated with precision.

(b) So far as the Chief Commissioners' Provinces of Delhi and Ajmer Merwara are concerned, the Government of India intend to introduce the scheme in these areas in anticipation of its introduction in the rest of the country. The survey of the concentration of industrial workers in Delhi has been completed. In view of the acute shortage of accommodation in all the industrial areas at present, the acquisition of buildiuge for the dispensaries which will have to be set up by the Chief Commissioners and for the local offices which must be established by the Corporation may take a little time but steps in this direction are being taken. The Corporation is also taking steps to sanction and recruit the staff necessary for the introduction of the Scheme. Regulations under the Act are being drawn up. It is intended to introduce this scheme as soon as all these preliminary steps have been taken.

(c) Local offices where cash benefits will be administered will have to be set up in Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara before the scheme can be introduced in those areas. In addition, a small regional office will also be required. Steps to set up this office are being taken. The office will be set up as soon as arrangements for providing medical care have been completed, the regulations have been framed and the necessary accommodation obtained.

REVISION OF RULES FOR ALLOTMENT OF GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN DELHI

*1434. **Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether the rules for allotment of Government quarters in New Delhi and Delhi are being revised with effect from 1st April, 1949 so as to change the pay groups for different types of quarters?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Yes.

CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL ROOMS IN M. C. A. QUARTERS

*1435. **Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state whether it is a fact that additional rooms are being constructed in the M.C.A. quarters in Delhi?

(b) What is the estimated additional cost for this construction?

(c) What is the number of houses for which this additional construction is proposed to be done?

(d) Is this additional construction meant exclusively for the M.C.A. quarters or for all Government bungalows?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) to (d). Recently the Accommodation Sub-Committee of the Constituent Assembly of India suggested that additional rooms might be built in the M.L.A. bungalows on Ferozeshah Road, Canning Lane and Electric Lane and the Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, has been asked to examine the suggestion and submit a report, together with an estimate. The proposal is in respect of M.L.A. bungalows only numbering sixty-six.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: In view of the fact that there are lakhs of people in Delhi without any accommodation, I would like to know what prompted the Government to have this additional construction?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The Government is only examining the suggestion.

Shri Ram Chandra Upadhyay: Has the Government received any representation from some members to convert some rooms in the Constitution House into residential quarters?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: I have not so far received any; if received, it will be considered on merits.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: I should like to know whether the Honourable Minister is aware of the fact that construction has already been done and is being done.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: These repairs have been sanctioned two years ago at the suggestion of the Accommodation Sub-Committee of the Central Legislative Assembly. This does not add an inch of space excepting erecting a wall in the verandah inside.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: I should like to know why this additional expenditure and why additional materials were used when many people.....

Mr. Speaker: He has already explained the position. This was in pursuance of the recommendations of the House Committee two years ago.

Shrimati Dakshayani Velayudhan: That was two years ago when there was no question of refugees.

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member is arguing now. Next question.

REMITTANCES FROM INDO-CHINA

†*1436. **Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar** (on behalf of **Shri V. N. Pillai**): (a) Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the family remittance of Rs. 200 per mensem with an overall limit of Rs. 50,000 per mensem which was permitted to be sent to India through the Indian Consul at Saigon has been recently stopped and if so, why?

(b) What action has been taken to restore this remittance facility?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) Consequent on the Debt Settlement Agreement concluded between France and India last year, the French Indo-China authorities permitted, with effect from 15th June, 1948, remittance facilities to Indians at the rate of Rs. 200 per mensem per family, with an overall limit of Rs. 50,000 per mensem. The remittances were to be sent not through the Indian Consul at Saigon but through normal banking channels. This concession was not limited to any period of time, but was sanctioned by the French Indo-China authorities on a more or less permanent basis. The facility continues in existence and is being fully availed of by the Indian community in Indo-China.

(b) Does not arise.

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†Taken in the second round. Printed serially in the day's Debate.

Shri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Are the Government aware that there are very large funds belonging to the nationals of India in Indo-China? Will it not take a number of years for all that sum to be transferred to India?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: After the war, the Indians in Indo-China found a lot of difficulty in getting funds over here. Some temporary arrangements were arrived at with the Indo-Cbina Government. But the latest settlement we have made permits the Indians to get a certain amount of money out of Indo-China. It has not been possible to arrange for greater amounts being sent. It is possible that, in future, an arrangement might be arrived at which will permit our nationals to take more funds out of Indo-China.

Oilseeds Export Trade Advisory Council

*1437. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether there is some Advisory Council attached to the Ministry of Commerce in order to advise the Ministry in the matter of export of oilseeds?

(b) Are the Advisory Council Members selected and if so, by whom?

(c) Are the growers of oilseeds represented on the Advisory Council?

(d) Are established shippers authorised to export oilseeds to all countries?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: (a) Yes. There is an Export Advisory Council which advises the Ministry of Commerce in regard to the export trade in all commodities including oilseeds.

(b) The constitution of the Council provides for twenty-eight non-official members in all. Out of these, sixteen members are nominated by certain chambers and associations, etc., representing various interests in the country's export trade and twelve members are nominated by Government as representatives of interests not otherwise adequately represented on the Council.

(c) No.

(d) During 1948 quotas of oilseeds were fixed destinationwise by the International Emergency Food Council. Licences were given to established shippers for destination to which they had shipped in the past in order to qualify as established shippers. During 1949 destinational quotas will not continue as the International Emergency Food Council has since deallocated oils and oilseeds. Future licences to established shippers will, therefore, be valid for all permissible destinations.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (d), is the list of established shippers finally settled once for all or is it being reviewed from year to year?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The list is based upon performance in a particular basic period. But, new-comers are eligible for a proportion of the trade every year.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Arising out of the answer to part (c) that growers of oilseeds are represented on the Advisory Council.....

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I said they are not represented.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Why are not they represented?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This body is expected to represent the interests of export trade and not the growers as such.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the reason why quota of established shippers have been considerably reduced compared to previous years?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I do not know what the honourable member means. The quota has been ten per cent. for some time for newcomers.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: What are the conditions according to which newcomers are taken as shippers?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: You mean the selection of the newcomers?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: What are the qualifications of new comers?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: They should be those who have a connection with the commodity concerned, but may not have effected any export during the basic period, but they should have some connection with the commodity concerned.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that the Advisory Committee decided to allot ninety per cent. of oil-seeds export to established shippers and ten per cent. to newcomers?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is not a question of the Advisory Council deciding anything. The Advisory Council merely advised the Government that ninety per cent. should go to the established shippers.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: How is it that a statutory Body like the Indian Oil-seeds Committee is not represented on the Advisory Council?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: This Advisory Committee has been in existence for some time and no new additions have been made to its membership except in the case of one or two. One member was added definitely to represent the oil and oilseeds interests of Southern India.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: My question is : How is it that a statutory body like the Indian Oil-seeds Committee is not represented on the Advisory Council?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I could not say. It may be because the Advisory Committee was intended to represent the interests of those who were directly concerned with carrying on foreign trade and not merely the interests of the agriculturists.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know, Sir, what is the basic period on the basis of which established shippers are given licenses?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The basic period in this case is January 1947 to June 1948.

Shri S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the Indian Oil-seeds Committee is concerned with both import and export of oil-seeds also?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should like to examine the position.

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to the established shippers, have Government got a policy of reviewing them, whether genuine shippers are included in the basic period of 1947-48?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: Actually those who effect shipments are taken to be qualified, and of course, we try to find out if everybody who applies, did actually effect any shipment in that period.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Is it a fact that the quota referred to are classified as 'fixed quota', 'surplus quota' and 'advance quota' and if so, what do they signify?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: That would depend upon the circumstances that may arise in any particular licensing period. If my honourable friend wants to know more details about it, I could give him the detailed scheme later on.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Is it a fact that 250,000 tons of oilseeds of the total export has been decided by the Government?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I have not got the figures just now in front of me.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know, Sir, if it is a fact that despite the decision of the Government that ninety per cent. of the export quota shall be given to established shippers and the rest ten per cent. to newcomers, the Department has in fact distributed only 50,000 tons on this basis, and the rest of 200,000 maunds they are distributing indiscriminately without taking into consideration the proportion fixed by the Honourable Minister?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I should not think so.

Sardar Bhopinder Singh Man: Is it the opinion of the Government that the growers of oil-seeds have no interest in the exports?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri B. P. Jhunjhunwala: How long this monopoly to the established shippers is going to be continued so as to deny the newcomers?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: It is not a queation of monopoly. It is a question of stabilizing the foreign trade of the country in the hands of those who are accustomed to carry on such trade.

HAND DECORTICATOR INVENTED BY PRODUCERS ORGANIZATION

*1438. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in certain parts of the country a hand Decorticator invented by the Producers Organisation is profitably working as remover of groundnut husk from seeds?

(b) If so, what is the encouragement which Government are affording for popularising it?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Minister of Agriculture. It has accordingly been transferred to the list of questions for the 30th March 1949 when the Honourable Minister of Agriculture will answer it.

ORISSA GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL OVER COAL MINES LABOUR WELFARE AND HOUSING FUNDS

*1439. **Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Labour be pleased to state

(a) the authority which is in charge of the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund as also the Coal Mines Housing Fund in the case of (i) Talcher coal mines and (ii) the Ebb river and the Rampura coal mines of the Sambalpore District in Orissa;

(b) the amount of money collected in each of these mines in each of the past three years as also the money spent each year for specified purposes in each case; and

(c) the nature of the control the Government of Orissa have on these funds;

The Honourable Shri Jagjivan Ram: (a) (i) Prior to its integration with the Orissa Province, Talcher State had its own enactment for the collection of coalmines labour welfare cess. The Ruler of the State was responsible for the administration of the State Welfare Fund. By the issue of a notification dated the 4th November 1948, the Central Government extended the operation of the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund Act, 1947 to this State. Arrangements are in train for taking over the administration of the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund in the State.

(ii) The Central Government is responsible for the administration of the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund so far as the Ebb (1b) River and Rampur collieries in Orissa Province are concerned.

(b) Separate figures relating to cess collections for individual collieries are not being maintained. However, the estimated cess collections based on coal despatches from the Ebb (1b) River and Rampur collieries during 1945-46 to 1947-48 are given below:

1945-46	Rs. 27,268
1946-47	Rs. 18,548
1947-48	... Rs. 19,865

Details of cess collections in respect of the collieries in Talcher are not yet available.

(c) The Government of Orissa have no control over the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund constituted under a Central Government enactment. Till such time as the Central Government take over administration of the Fund in Talcher, the Government of Orissa will exercise control over the State Fund.

COMMONWEALTH PRIME MINISTERS' CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN LONDON

*1440. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a P.T.I.-Reuter report, dated 9th March, 1949 from London to the effect that a Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference is likely to be held in London next month;

(b) if so, whether India has been invited to participate in the Conference; and

(c) what the objects of the proposed conference are?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) to (c). The Prime Minister proposes to make a statement on this matter tomorrow afternoon.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I ask, Sir, on the strength of the precedent established already in connection with a question about the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank, whether after the statement is made tomorrow, questions will be allowed on the Statement.....

Mr. Speaker: The question at present is hypothetical; but in cases of statements, no questions are allowed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Then I will put the questions now.

Mr. Speaker: No. The Deputy Minister says that the Prime Minister is going to make a statement; that is the answer to his question. Let him await the statement, and then, of course, he may give fresh notice of fresh questions.

Shri H. V. Kamath: There is no time.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May not this question be postponed for some other date?

Mr. Speaker: Even if the question is postponed, there is no guarantee that it will come for oral answer.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I have seen the list of questions for the 31st March, there are only 19 questions or so that day, and if you will allow me, I would request you to have it postponed to the 31st.

Mr. Speaker: Well, the difficulty is that the honourable member has already put the question.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I was not aware that the reply would be that a statement is going to be made.

Mr. Speaker: I have not allowed any questions to be put on statements made.

Shri H. V. Kamath: There was the question of the International Bank some weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker: I will consider the position. At present, let the matter stand over.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it postponed to the 31st?

Mr. Speaker: No. The honourable member has put the question and the answer has been given. I will consider the whole matter in due course.

PROPERTY IN THE NAME OF SHRI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE OR PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA WHEN THE AZAD HIND FAUJ SURRENDERED

*1441. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what property, together with its value, stood in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose or the Provisional Government of Free India in the Azad Hind Bank or elsewhere in East Asia when the Azad Hind Fauj surrendered; and

(b) how it has been disposed of since?

Dr. B. V. Keskar (Deputy Minister of External Affairs): (a) and (b). It has not been possible to ascertain the details of the property standing in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the time when the Azad Hind Fauj surrendered. Funds in banks and elsewhere were chiefly in Japanese currency which subsequently became valueless. There appears to have been a large quantity of gold, jewellery and other valuables. Much of this disappeared during the disturbed conditions which prevailed at the time. Some of it was recovered from officials and others connected with the I.N.A. and the India Independence League. Bank records have often been lost or destroyed. Movable property disappeared in the general scramble at the end of the war. A part of it was confiscated by the British Military authorities.

Three years ago, the present Prime Minister visited Malaya and enquired into this matter. He constituted a fund made up of purses received by him during his visit and of some gold which had previously been confiscated by the British Military authorities. At his suggestion the Supreme Commander in Malaya at that time, Lord Mountbatten, agreed to hand over this gold to the Trust created for giving relief to Indians in Malaya. This Trust still functions.

In spite of efforts made to that end, no other funds or jewellery have thus far been recovered.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have Government taken any steps in the direction of getting in touch with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, wherever on earth he might be today?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Government's view based on information is that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is no more.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it Government's final view that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is dead?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: Yes, Sir.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does the Deputy Minister remember, Sir, that on the floor of this House the Honourable the Home Minister stated on the 10th October 1946—I am quoting Sir, from the official proceedings—the Honourable the Home Minister stated that the Government of India have no view either way, whether he is alive or dead. Is the Government's view the same or different, today?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: As there was a controversy with regard to the death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the Honourable the Home Member said that. The Government's views are based on information that is available.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Deputy Minister's attention been drawn to the latest report from London, published in a Bombay weekly that the British Government is rumoured to be very much perturbed over some confidential information that has come into its possession quite recently that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the great Indian revolutionary leader and head of the famous I.N.A. Resistance Movement is alive and is waiting for an opportunity to return to his homeland?

Mr. Speaker: That will be no concern of ours. Order, order.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that Col. Habib-ur-Rahman, on whose testimony.....

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. We are not concerned with that.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is any of his property or assets referred to in the question in the custody of the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces in Japan, that is, the S.C.A.P. authorities, today?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: As stated in the first part of the reply, gold, jewellery and other things have been constituted into a trust in Malaya. In other places, such as Burma, Siam, etc. we have not been able to trace any property belonging to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It has been stated that some property was confiscated by the British Government. May I know how much was confiscated?

Dr. B. V. Keskar: I do not know the exact amount. It may be a few lakhs. But that amount has been made over to this trust.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Who are the members of this trust, Sir?

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

KOSI PROJECT

*1442. **Babu Ramnarayan Singh:** Will the Honourable Minister of Works, Mines and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he has just visited the area of the proposed Kosi project; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of giving this scheme the first priority and if so, what steps Government propose to take in the matter in the coming financial year?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: (a) and (b). I visited Barahkshetra on the 13th and 14th March 1949 and inspected the proposed site for the high dam a little above Barahkshetra and the proposed site of the barrage near Chatra. The investigations are still in progress. But it seems that the project can be divided into two parts and it is hoped that the project report on the barrage may be ready within the next few months, although the project report on the high dam may well take another year or so for completion. I understand that the dam and the barrage when completed will provide complete flood protection for several thousand square miles, irrigation for about three or four million acres and hydro-electric power which may well be of the order of 1½ or 2 million kilowatts. The cost of the complete project may well exceed Rs. 100 crores and the time required for its completion may well be 11 years. The barrage part of this project, on the other hand, is likely to provide partial flood protection, irrigation for about two million acres and hydro-electric power to the extent of 100,000 kilowatts within a period of three to four years at a cost of about rupees thirty crores.

I have been greatly distressed by what I heard about the sufferings of the people in the Kosi flood affected areas and will try my best to expedite sanction to the barrage part of the scheme as early as possible. But Government cannot definitely commit themselves unless and until the project report on the barrage has been completed and examined by the Government of India in consultation with the Governments of Nepal and Bihar.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: What percentage of the cost will be borne by the Nepal Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: It is too early to say anything on that.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Has any agreement been reached with the Nepal Government?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: The whole project is just being investigated and the Nepal Government has been wholeheartedly co-operating with the Central Water Powers, Irrigation and Navigation Commission. When investigations are completed and a stage is reached when it will be advisable to open negotiations, it will be done.

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: When does he expect the report referred to?

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: About the barrage?

Dr. Mono Mohan Das: Yes.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: In the next few months, as stated in the answer.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Will you be good enough to grant special permission for question No. 1492† being answered now?

Mr. Speaker: I think the honourable member might refer to the answer.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

ARTICLES IMPORTED INTO INDIA

121. Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Will the Honourable Minister of Commerce be pleased to state what is the total quantity and price of the following articles imported from various countries in the years 1946-47, 1947-48 and 1948-49:

† Printed serially in the day's Debate.—*Ed. of D.*

(i) printing machine and newsprint;

(ii) fountain pens;

(iii) diesel oil tractors;

(iv) cloth;

(v) sugar; and

(vi) oil engines?

The Honourable Shri K. C. Neogy: I lay on the table of the House a statement giving the required information as far as available.

STATEMENT

Imports into India

Article.	Quantity			Value 000 Rs.		
	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49 April to December	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49 April to December
(i) Printing and lithographing presses.	..	..	..	45,17	1,56,17	1,69,96
New printing paper : '000 Cwts.	696	879	801	1,54,60	3,11,56	3,05,49
(ii) Fountain pens .	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.	N. A.
(iii) Agricultural Tractors and parts.	..	..	..	34,09	1,11,56	1,29,98
(iv) Cotton piecegoods: '000 Yds.	16,185	26,537	26,211	2,39,31	4,24,05	5,31,42
(v) Oil Engines :—						
For Locomotives Nos.	43	149	33	7,61	23,62	4,13
For other than Locos".	3,267	12,036	9,889	1,41,85	3,62,25	3,24,05
(vi) Sugar : Tons .		19	10,575		31	65,89

N. A.—Not available.

The statistics exclude the direct foreign trade of the Pakistan provinces of Sind and East Bengal with effect from the 1st and the 15th August 1947 respectively. The sea-borne trade of India with Pakistan is included from 1st March 1948. From 1st April 1948 imports on Government account have also been included. The foreign sea-borne trade of Kutch has been included from 1st June 1948.

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART I—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Tuesday, 29th March, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ORAL ANSWERS

REORGANISATION OF MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

*1443. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether any decisions regarding the reorganisation of the Military Accounts Department have been arrived at and if not, what are the reasons for the delay?

(b) Has the question of the formation of new sub-offices and their location and the location of existing offices, which was under the consideration of Government, been settled? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The answer is in the negative. The permanent set up of the Military Accounts Department is dependent upon the post-war permanent strength and disposition of the Armed Forces which have not yet been settled.

(b) For the same reasons, the answer to this part of the question is also in the negative. In this connection, the attention of the honourable member is invited to my reply to Starred Question No. 343.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether his predecessor on the 10th August made a reply that this matter was receiving active consideration of Government?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As I said in my reply, this question is bound up with the determination of the final strength and disposition of the Armed Forces. Since now we are still in a rather indeterminate kind of position regarding the future strength of the Army, the question continues to remain under consideration.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: But is it under consideration? His predecessor on the 10th August stated that the matter was under consideration.

Mr. Speaker: I think it is no use putting that question. The honourable member knows the progress of events in India.

WORKING OF DEFENCE SCIENCE ORGANISATION

†*1444. **Shri V. C. Kesava Rao:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the progress made in the working of the Defence Science Organisation?

(b) Is there any liaison between this organisation and the eminent scientists in the country?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I would refer the honourable member to Section V of the printed statement of the Activities of

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

the Ministry of Defence during 1948-49, copies of which are already in the hands of honourable members, and to what I said on this subject in the course of the debate on the Defence Services Estimates on the 7th March, 1949.

GRANT FOR TUBERCULOSIS HOSPITAL IN ASSAM

*1445. **Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether any grant has been made for the establishment of a Tuberculosis hospital with modern equipments in Assam?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: No special grant has been made by the Government of India for the establishment of a Tuberculosis hospital with modern equipment in Assam. One of the development schemes of the Assam Government approved by the Government of India is the scheme for the extension of the Shillong Chest Hospital at an estimated total cost of Rs. 14,64,000 which can be met from the overall grants made by the Government of India to the Assam Government from year to year for their development schemes.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha: Has any Medical Officer from the Centre ever visited Shillong or any other town of Assam in this connection?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Not in connection with the T.B. Hospital, no.

Shri H. V. Kamath: How many tuberculosis hospitals and clinics are there all over India?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could furnish that information to the honourable member.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the incidence of tuberculosis in our country, Sir?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: It is difficult to give absolute statistics, but I think we estimate that quite half a million die of T.B. every year.

SUPPLY POSITION OF RAW FILM AND RESTRICTION ON CONSUMPTION OF FILMS

†*1446. **Seth Govind Das:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state what is the present supply position of raw film?

(b) What are the steps that are being taken by Government to combat the scarcity of raw film?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of restricting the length of pictures and the number of positive copies to limit the consumption of raw stock?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Imports during the two years ending 31st March, 1949 averaged 150 million feet per annum. The total imports during the calendar year 1948 were however 115 million feet. This was due to reduced imports from U.K. Thus a relative shortage of raw film in India was felt during the latter part of 1948 but that is expected to be made up in 1949. Precise information regarding stocks carried over by dealers is not available.

(b) Possibilities of increased imports are being explored.

(c) Government have under consideration a proposal to restrict the length of feature films and trailers. There is no proposal to limit the number of

†Taken as in the second round. Printed serially in the day's Debate.—*Ed. of D.*

positive copies. In considering any such measure, factors other than economy in the consumption of raw film have also to be taken into account.

Seth Govind Das: Are the Government aware that a few years ago, a restriction was imposed on every Film company not to make a film beyond a certain length and that has been relaxed now? Are the Government going to impose the same thing again?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Yes; the answer has already been given under part (c). "Government have under consideration a proposal to restrict the length of feature films and trailers."

Seth Govind Das: What would be the length? Is there any proposal?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: The matter is under consideration. There are proposals of restricting it to 11,000 feet.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any proposal for the establishment of any factory in India for producing this raw film that is all imported at present?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I think this question should be addressed to the Minister for Industry and Supply.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know, arising from the answer to part (c), whether the provincial Governments are consulted in this matter and if so, which are the provinces that have agreed to this proposal?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Yes; provincial Governments are being consulted and many of them have supported this proposal.

FORMULATION OF UNIFORM POLICY OF FILM CENSOR

†*1447. **Seth Govind Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties and inconvenience caused to film producers due to different ways of applying the censor code by different provincial governments; and

(b) whether there is any plan to establish a Central Censor Board for films in order to formulate a uniform policy of film censor in India?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Yes.

(b) The question of establishing a Central Board of Censors is under consideration.

Seth Govind Das: By what date is it expected that this Central Censor Board will come into existence?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It requires some legislation and legislation is under consideration.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What fate will overtake the Provincial Boards after the Central Board is established?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: The whole thing is under consideration; I cannot immediately say. Central Censorship naturally means that the provincial Censor Boards will be subordinate or will be completely abolished.

Seth Govind Das: May I take it that by the next session of the Assembly, the Government will come to certain definite conclusions as far as the Central Censor Board is concerned?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I cannot give any particular date.

ANCIENT SANSKRIT DOCUMENTS IN JOGJAKARTA

†*1448. **Shri S. Nagappa:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state what steps the Government of India have taken to discover the ancient Sanskrit documents in Jogjakarta?

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†Taken up in the second round. Printed serially in the day's Debate.—*Ed. of D.*

‡Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

(b) If no steps have been taken, when do Government propose to start the work?

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Government of India have at present no proposal under consideration to collect ancient Sanskrit documents from Jogjakarta. It is not possible for the Indian Government to undertake a research of this type in a foreign country. When conditions improve efforts will be made to obtain information.

(b) Under the present political conditions in Indonesia, it is not considered practicable to send any Mission there to prepare a list of manuscripts of interest to India.

LINK OF INDIAN CURRENCY WITH U. K. STERLING

†*1449. **Shri S. Nagappa:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether the Indian currency is still linked with the U.K. sterling?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: No, Sir. It was delinked by an amendment of the Reserve Bank of India Act in 1947.

APPOINTMENTS TO INDIAN ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE

†*1450. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointments to the Indian Administrative Service since the assumption of office by the present Government;

(b) the number of vacancies in the above service still to be filled up; and

(c) the probable date by which all such vacancies are likely to be filled up?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) 141.

(b) 251.

(c) August, 1949.

BAN ON USE OF TITLES IN OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

†*1451. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently imposed a ban on the use, in official or demi-official correspondence, official publications, etc., of titles awarded by the previous Government or Governments; and

(b) if so, whether this ban applies to (i) titles awarded to Rulers of Indian States by the Moghul Emperors, previous Hindu Kings and the British Government; and (ii) titles awarded by the Rulers of Indian States to their subjects with or without the approval of the previous Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (b). The orders issued are as follows:

"No reference should hereafter be made in official documents to titles against the names of any Indians.

It is not proposed that titles should be surrendered; only their use in official documents should be stopped.

These orders do not apply to Ruling Princes".

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

†*1452. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of capital punishments awarded province-wise during each of the last five years;

(b) the names of countries in which capital punishment has been abolished during recent years;

(c) whether the present or the previous Government have ever considered the question of abolition of capital punishment, and if so, with what results; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to consider the question?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(b) As far as I can ascertain, Cuba abolished capital punishment in 1940, New Zealand in 1941, and Switzerland in 1943.

(c) The proposal has been carefully examined on a number of occasions and given up.

(d) The present is considered inopportune for the abolition of capital punishment.

STATEMENT

Number of persons sentenced to death by the High Courts or other authority concerned

Provinces.	Number of persons sentenced to death.				
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Madras (and Coorg)	263	278	165	110	90
Bombay	18	23	20	42	32
Bengal (and Assam)	2	10	10	..	..
West Bengal (and Assam)	...	...	...	5	4
U. P.	150	139	107	44	55
Punjab (and Delhi)	220	215	160	...	..
East Punjab (and Delhi)	..	..	..	12	62
C. P. and Berar	69	46	43	37	31
Bihar (and Orissa)	20	26	13	20	15
Ajmer-Merwara	2	2	1	..	1

WARRANT OF PRECEDENCE

†*1453. **Lala Raj Kanwar:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the Warrant of Precedence as in force at the present time?

(b) What position is assigned therein to (i) Rajpramukhs and Up-Rajpramukhs of Stutes Unions (ii) Other Rulers of Indian States and (iii) Members of the Central and Provincial Legislatures?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A copy of the Warrant of Precedence is placed on the table of the House.

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the question being absent.

(b) (i) and (ii). The attention of the honourable member is invited to the footnote of the Warrant.

(iii) The Warrant is confined to officials and diplomats and does not include members of the Legislatures.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 16th October 1948

No. 15/10/48-*Public*.—The following revised table with respect to the rank and precedence of persons named therein, which has been approved by His Majesty King George The Sixth, is published for general information.

This supersedes all previous notifications issued on the subject.

1. Governor-General of India.

2. Prime Minister of India.

3. Governors of Provinces within their respective charges.

4 Ambassadors accredited to India.

High Commissioners of Commonwealth Governments in India.

4A. The Honourable Sardar Vallabbhai Patel (whilst holding the post of Deputy Prime Minister).

5. Chief Justice of India.

President of the Constituent Assembly.

Speaker, Central Assembly.

6. Ministers of the Dominion of India.

6A. Governors of Provinces outside their respective charges.

Premiers of Provinces in their respective provinces.

6B. Ministers Plenipotentiary and Envoys Extra-ordinary.

7. Sir B. N. Rau (whilst holding the post of Constitutional Adviser to the Government of India).

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai (whilst holding the post of Secretary-General of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations).

Visiting Ambassadors and Ministers Plenipotentiary including Ambassadors of India.

Mr. V. P. Menon, Adviser to the Ministry of States.

8. Charge d'Affaires *a pied*.

Charge d'Affaires *ad interim*.

9. Judges of the Federal Court.

9A. Chiefs of Staff and Commander-in-Chief, provided they hold the rank of full General or equivalent rank.

10. Premiers of Provinces outside their Provinces.

Ministers of State.

11. Chief Justices of High Courts.

Presidents of Legislative Councils.

Speakers of Provincial Legislative Assemblies.

12. Chiefs of Staff and Commander-in-Chief, provided they hold the rank of Lieutenant General or equivalent rank.

12A. Ministers of Provinces.

Deputy Ministers.

13. Auditor General of India.

Chairman, Federal Public Service Commission.

Chief Commissioner, Delhi, within his charge.

14. Chief Judges of Chief Courts.

Puisne Judges of High Courts.

15. Officers of the rank of full General or equivalent rank.

Chief Commissioner of Railways.

*Secretaries to the Government of India (including Secretary to the Cabinet and Principal Private Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister).

Advocate General of India.

Officiating Chiefs of Staff and Commanders-in-Chief holding the rank of a Major-General or equivalent rank.

Mr. M. C. Khanna, Rehabilitation Adviser to the R. & R. Ministry.

16. Members of the Railway Board.

Financial Commissioner of Railways.

Ministers other than Ministers Plenipotentiary and Envoys Extraordinary.

Officers of the rank of Lieutenant General or equivalent rank.

Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Naval Squadron.

17. Regional Commissioners within their respective charges.

Chief Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh, within his charge.

Additional Secretaries to the Government of India.

Legal Adviser, Ministry of External Affairs.

President, Indian Tariff Board.

Chairman, Central Electricity Commission.

Chairman, Central Waterpower, Irrigation and Navigation Commission.

Judges of Chief Courts.

Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Financial Adviser, Military Finance.

Chairman, Central Board of Revenue.

†PSOs of Armed Forces of the rank of Major-General or equivalent rank.

18. Chairman, Public Service Commission of a Province.

Chief Commissioner of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Chief Secretaries to Provincial Governments.

Deputy High Commissioners of Commonwealth Governments in India.

Counsellors of Foreign Embassies and Legations.

Counsellors attached to High Commissioners.

Members of the Federal Public Service Commission.

19. Chief Commissioner, Delhi, outside his charge.

Chief Controller of Road Transport and Development, Ministry of Transport.

Visiting foreign and British Ministers other than Ministers Plenipotentiary and Envoys Extraordinary.

Regional Commissioners outside their respective charges.

Chief Commissioner, Himachal Pradesh, outside his charge.

Chief Commissioner, Kutch, within his charge.

Director-General, Health Services.

Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs.

Director, Intelligence Bureau.

Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India.

Establishment Officer to the Government of India.

Financial Commissioners.

Joint Secretaries to the Government of India (including Joint Secretary to the Cabinet).

Officers of the Rank of Major-General or equivalent rank.

Members of the Indian Tariff Board.

Senior Trade Commissioners and other Officers of the rank of Counsellors to High Commissioners of Commonwealth Governments in India.

Surgeons-General.

Director-General of Industry and Supply.

Director-General of Disposals.

Director-General of All-India Radio.

RIN, Commodores Incharge, Naval Posts or areas.

RIAF, Group Commander (S) of the rank of Air Commodore

†PSOs of the Naval and Air Headquarters of Commodore and Air Commodore ranks.

NOTE.—Raj Pramukhs of Saurashtra, Matsya, Vindhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Bharat and Patiala and East Punjab States Union and Rulers of Indian States enjoying a salute of 17 guns and over, should be treated for the purpose of precedence on the same footing as Governors of Provinces.

The other Princes should be fitted into suitable places in the Warrant of Precedence in accordance with their importance and status.

*The Officer holding the post of Secretary to the Governor-General should be graded with Secretaries to the Government of India provided he has been Secretary to the Government of India, before being appointed to the Governor-General's Staff.

†Should a PSO hold the rank of a Lieutenant-General, his seniority in the Warrant of Precedence will continue to remain the same as laid down for "Officers of the rank of Lieutenant-General or equivalent rank" in article 16 of the Warrant of Precedence.

H. V. R. IENGAR, Secy

SCHOLARSHIPS TO EAST PUNJAB SCHEDULED CASTES STUDENTS

*1454. **Prof. Yashwant Rai:** Will the Honourable Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scheduled Caste Scholarship Board awards scholarship to Harijan students in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that no applications have been entertained this year from the East Punjab, because they were late and not in time;

(c) whether Government are aware that the results were declared very late by the East Punjab University due to partition troubles; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to consider the desirability of awarding the scholarships to the students?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد - (a) کا جواب ہاں ہے :

(b) نہیں ایسٹ پنجاب کے بہت سے اُمیدواروں کی درخواستیں وقت پر مل گئیں - ان میں سے ۶۳ امیدواروں کو اس برس کے لئے چنا گیا -

(c) ہاں -

(d) جو درخواستیں مانگی جاتی ہیں ان کے دو پارٹ ہوتے ہیں - پہلے پارٹ کا تعلق صرف اس بات سے ہوتا ہے کہ شیڈیولڈکاسٹ ہونے کا سرٹیفکیٹ بھیجدیا جائے اور یہ بات بتلائی جائے کہ اُمیدوار کی پچھلی تعلیم کی کیا حالت ہے - دوسرے پارٹ کا تعلق یونیورسٹی کے امتحان کے ساتھ ہے - کہ یہ بات بتلائی جائے کہ امیدوار امتحان میں شریک ہوا اور اس طرح کا نتیجہ نکلا - درخواست کے لئے جو تاریخ ٹھہرائی جاتی ہے اس کا تعلق صرف پہلے پارٹ سے ہوتا ہے اور دوسرے سے نہیں ہوتا ہے - دوسرے پارٹ کے لئے کوئی تاریخ نہیں ٹھہرائی جاتی ہے - صرف یہ ہدایت کی جاتی ہے کہ جو امتحان کا نتیجہ نکلے وہ تین ہفتے کے اندر پارٹ دو کے ماتحت بھیجدیا جائے -

معاملہ کی صورت پر غور کرنے کے بعد آنریبل ممبر تسلیم کرینگے کہ یونیورسٹی کے امتحان کا نتیجہ پہلے نکلے یا دیر سے نکلے اس کا کوئی لگاؤ امیدوار کے درخواست کے پہلے پارٹ سے نہیں ہے - اور اس سے درخواست بھیجنے میں کوئی رکاوٹ نہیں ہوتی - ایسے حالات میں گورنمنٹ کے لئے ضروری نہیں ہے کہ وہ ٹھہرائی ہوئی تاریخ کے بعد کی درخواستوں پر غور کرنے کی ضرورت سمجھے اور اس کے لئے دوسری تاریخ ٹھہرادے - جو درخواستیں ٹھہرائی ہوئی تاریخ کے اندر مسٹری کو مل گئیں وہ دوسری پرانتوں کی درخواستوں کے ساتھ سلیکشن بورڈ کو بھیجدی گئیں -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: (a) Yes.

(b) No. Applications from most of the candidates from the East Punjab were received in time and 63 of them were selected for scholarships this year.

(c) Yes.

(d) The last date fixed for receipt of applications refers only to part I of the application which contains evidence of a student's belonging to the Scheduled Caste community and particulars about his past academic career. The result of the last examination taken by a student is to be mentioned by him in Part II of the application. No last date is fixed for sending Part II of the application which may be sent by a student within three weeks after his examination result is announced. In view of this and of what is stated at (b) above it was not thought necessary for the Government to consider any late applications from the East Punjab.

श्री बलवन्त सिंह मेहता : क्या यह स्कालरशिप देशी रियासतों के विद्यार्थियों को भी दिये जाते हैं ?

Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Are these scholarships also awarded to students from Indian states.

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : جو ریاستیں صوبوں میں مل گئیں ہیں وہ تو پراونسوں میں آجاتی ہیں - اور جو الگ ہیں اُن کا تعلق وہاں کی گورنمنٹوں سے ہے

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Those states which have merged with the Provinces, come within the Province concerned; while those which maintain their separate entity have their connection with their local Governments.

प्रो० यशवन्त राय : इस वर्ष पंजाब में कितने वजीफे दिये गये हैं।

Prof. Yashwant Rai: How many scholarships have been awarded to Punjab this year?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : تریسٹھ -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: Sixty-three.

प्रो० यशवन्त राय : कितने विद्यार्थियों ने दरख्वास्तें की थीं ?

Prof. Yashwant Rai: What was the number of students who applied?

آنریبل مولانا ابوالکلام آزاد : ۱۰۵ (ایک سو پانچ) -

The Honourable Maulana Abul Kalam Azad: 105.

Foreign-returned Scholars trained in Pharmaceutical Science

†*1455. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state whether Government are maintaining any register of foreign-returned scholars and researchers in pharmaceutical science and if so, how many are on their registers?

(b) If not, do Government propose to maintain such a register?

(c) What steps are being taken to employ them and utilise their expert and specialist knowledge and training?

(d) How many of them have been absorbed in Government service?

(e) Is any effort being made to place them in private employment?

† Answer to the question laid on the table, the questioner being absent.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) and (b). Particulars regarding Government scholars who have returned after training are maintained. Six candidates trained in Pharmaceutical Chemistry three of whom were sponsored by provincial Governments and three by the Central Government have returned after training.

(c) to (e). The Central Government have circulated to the Provincial Governments particulars regarding the three Central candidates. One of them has already found employment with a private firm in Bombay. The other two have not yet found employment but efforts on their behalf continue. Information regarding the placement of the three provincial scholars is being called for from the Provincial Governments concerned. Under the terms of their scholarship if no Government employment is found for a Government scholar within three months of his return he is at liberty to accept private employment.

HOUSES DESIGNED BY MR. MACPHERSON OF JODHPUR STATE

†*1456. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the new type of houses designed by Mr. Macpherson, the former Superintending Engineer of Jodhpur State;

(b) whether it is a fact that these houses are built mostly of local materials such as bamboos, chunam and earth;

(c) whether it is a fact that its cost is not more than Rs. 1,500 each;

(d) whether its durability is estimated to be more than 50 years; and

(e) whether Government propose to take any steps to study its designs, cost, etc., and begin to build such houses for the benefit of the poor sections of our people?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Yes.

(b) It is understood that the principal materials used are lime, sand and bamboo.

(c) Information has been called for and will be placed on the table of the House when received.

(d) Experience of similar methods of construction has shown that the life of these houses depends on good maintenance. In tenant-owned houses it can safely be assumed to be 15 to 20 years.

(e) Yes. Detailed information has been called for and the possibility of utilising the designs will be studied.

FUNDS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AND ROADS

*1457. **Dr. V. Subramaniam:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Central Government are taking away from the petrol tax collected Re. 0-9-6 of the tax and merge the proceeds with the general revenue of the Centre and allots from the general revenue every year funds required for National Highways and roads in areas administered by the Centre?

(b) Is this fund, which is allotted every year for National Highways, a non-lapsing fund or a lapsing fund?

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the question being asked.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) The customs and excise duty on motor spirit merges in general revenues but a sum equal to 2½ annas a gallon is paid into the Central Road Fund for road development. Funds for the construction and maintenance of National Highways are provided in the capital and revenue budget respectively and not from the Road Fund.

(b) The unspent provision for National Highways lapses at the end of each financial year like the provision on other services.

Dr. V. Subramaniam: Have Government any intention of creating a non-lapsing Road Fund for National Highways?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not at present.

Shri H. V. Kamath: In connection with the development of these National Highways, have any reports been received by the Honourable Minister whether there are any highway robbers in our country?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if this money is spent directly by the Central Government through their P.W.D. or is it spent by the provincial Governments?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: It is a question which should be addressed to my Honourable colleague the Minister of Transport, but having been in charge of it myself, I can give an answer The expenditure on National Highways is incurred by the Central Government but the provincial P.W.D. is used as the agency for execution.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: On what basis is this fund distributed to various provinces?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: May I suggest that the best course would be for the honourable member to put down a question for the Minister of Transport.

SPECIAL TRIBUNAL IN HYDERABAD

***1458. Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether a special Tribunal has been appointed for the purpose of conducting trials of accused persons who were responsible for murder, loot and arson in Hyderabad before and during the Police Action?

(b) If so, what are the names of the members of the Tribunal and what is the number of the accused so far to be tried by this Tribunal?

(c). What are the powers of the Tribunal?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The information has been called for and will be placed on the table of the House when received.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Will this Tribunal's decision be final or will it be appealable to any higher court?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The accused is entitled to appeal to the High Court of the State.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is the question of the trial of Mir Laik Ali and his Ministers and also of Kasim Razvi still under Government's active consideration?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The investigation is going on. When it is completed, the trial will take place.

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES RECEIVING PAYMENTS FROM STATE OFFICIALS BOTH IN HYDERABAD AND DELHI

*1459. **Shri Mahavir Tyagi:** Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state whether it is a fact that some of the press representatives have been found mentioned in the Nizam of Hyderabad's papers as having been receiving payments from the state officials, both in Delhi and Hyderabad, before and after the Police action was taken?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Some names do appear in the Government records but I do not consider it would be fair to disclose the names in the absence of evidence to show that the amounts were actually received by the persons to whom the payments purport to have been made. I should like to add that in the administrative conditions of the State at the time the possibility of diversion of funds from their intended purpose cannot be ruled out.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: May I know if those representatives who were stationed at Delhi and who got subsidies from the Nizam, are still on the roll of recognised representatives here?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: It is not possible for me to ascertain whether these people actually received the subsidies, and therefore I have not answered his question.

RETIREMENT BENEFITS AND GRATUITY IN CASES OF PREMATURE DEATH OF GOVERNMENT SERVANTS

*1460. **Shri Satis Chandra Samanta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state whether Government have come to any decision about paragraphs 199 and 199A of the Pay Commission's Recommendations regarding retirement benefits and gratuity in case of premature death of a Government servant and if not, why not?

(b) How long will they take to come to a final decision?

(c) Do Government propose to give any gratuity to the heirs of the Government servants who died before their retirement since the announcement of the Pay Commission's Report and if not, why not?

(d) What is the number of Central Government servants, who died before their retirement since the announcement of the Pay Commission's Report?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). The recommendations of the Central Pay Commission regarding retirement benefits are still under consideration and Government expect to come to a decision shortly.

(c) No. It is not the usual practice to give retrospective effect to financial concessions.

(d) Government have no information.

CADETS IN INDIAN MILITARY ACADEMY

*1461. **Shri Ari Bahadur Gurung:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the number of Cadets who have been in the Indian Military Academy since the inception of the Post-war Regular Commission Course, i.e., for the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and the seventh courses respectively?

(b) How many Cadets have so far received permanent commissions after the inception of these courses?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) and (b). I lay a statement on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Courses	Number of Cadets who joined for training.	Number of Cadets who received permanent commission	Remarks
2nd	247 plus 42 relegated from the previous Course (Total 289*)	204	*45 left for Pakistan.
3rd	204 plus 20 relegated from the previous Course (Total 224*)	193	*67 left for Pakistan.
4th	207 plus 15 relegated from the previous Course (Total 222)	These courses are still running.	
5th	186		
6th	160		
7th	This course will commence in July 1949.		

Bank Failures in Bengal

*1462. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the failures of many banks including some Scheduled Banks in Bengal;

(b) whether Government have enquired into the circumstances leading to such failures;

(c) the amount of deposits and the number of depositors involved in these Bank crashes; and

(d) whether Government intend to take any steps to recover the depositors' money?

The Honourable Dr John Matthai: (a) Yes.

(b) No formal enquiry has been conducted but the causes are well known. Most of the Banks followed unsound policy in the matter of investments, branch expansion and attraction of deposits.

(c) No information regarding non-scheduled banks is available. As regards scheduled banks, information regarding the number of depositors is not available, but the demand and time liabilities of six scheduled banks on the dates nearest to the dates of suspension of payment amounted to Rs. 6,02,24,000.

(d) This is a matter primarily for the consideration of the High Court which has granted a moratorium to these Banks.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have the Government made any enquiries about the conduct of those persons who were responsible for these banks?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am waiting for the report that is being prepared under the directions of the High Court. Until that is received, I am not in a position to take any action.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have the Government started any enquiry about the personal properties of those persons responsible for the banks?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I take it that when the report, which is now being prepared under the orders of the High Court, is available, it will throw a good deal of light on the financial affairs of the company including such questions as those raised by the honourable member.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: As for the non-Scheduled Banks, will Government enquire about the amount of deposits involved?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: For the moment the enquiry is confined to the Scheduled Banks, which are in trouble.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: The Honourable Minister has given only the time and demand liability of those banks but not the larger liabilities.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I shall be able to tell the honourable member when the full report is available.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Is there any scheme of Government whereby the depositors' money may be guaranteed, something like the Federal Insurance Corporation of America?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I presume liquidation proceedings are pending?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is so.

Mr. Speaker: Then the matter becomes *sub judice*.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Has the Reserve Bank issued instructions not allowing the Scheduled Banks to give any cash credit to individuals or firms?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Does that question arise?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as the Bengal Scheduled Banks are concerned, the remaining Scheduled Banks, are they . . . .

Mr. Speaker: That does not arise, except if we refer to the duty of the Reserve Bank, as the honourable member seems to think, to help these banks in the matter of cash.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as the remaining Scheduled Banks are concerned, as a result of the working of the Banks in the Bengal Presidency, have any instructions been issued to the rest of the Scheduled Banks not to give cash credits?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Not to my knowledge.

Shri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi: The Honourable Minister said that there was a moratorium. Are we to understand that there are actually liquidation proceedings? A moratorium is different from liquidation proceedings.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am glad that my honourable friend has raised that question. That is the correct position.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Has not the Reserve Bank any special responsibility to help these Scheduled Banks whenever they are in trouble?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. That is an argument.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: How many of the Scheduled Banks failed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Six.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Reserve Bank made periodical inspections under the rules? If so, how many times?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am not in a position to give the answer straightaway. But I could get the information.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Have Government any information that these banks were running in a very bad way and a crisis was impending any moment?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I expect the Reserve Bank in the ordinary course of its duties would have got into touch with the position in Bengal, and when the crisis actually arose, as far as my information goes, the Reserve Bank went to their assistance to the best of its ability as far as circumstances permitted.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Would the Government enquire into the conduct of those persons to see whether any investment was on their own personal name or put into some other *Benami* transaction?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As soon as the auditors' report is available, I am prepared to go into all these questions. (*Interruption.*)

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. I think we may go to the next question.

RECONSTRUCTION SCHEME FOR FAILED BANKS IN WEST BENGAL

*1463. **Shri Arun Chandra Guha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent bank failures in West Bengal, Government have any reconstruction scheme so that the realisable assets of these banks may be capitalised to form a new bank; and

(b) whether Government have any scheme to help the smaller banks, particularly those of West Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) A decision on the feasibility of setting up a Bank of Reconstruction can be taken only after the financial position of the banks which closed their doors is known with more accuracy, but it seems unlikely that such a bank could effectively be set up.

(b) There is no special scheme, but the assistance of the Reserve Bank of India is available under Sections 17 and 18 of the Reserve Bank of India Act. Assistance under section 17 is confined to scheduled banks against prescribed securities. Section 18 covers assistance to other banks as well and accommodation under this section is available when in the Reserve Bank's view an emergency has arisen. The general policy is to assist sound units in the banking system to enable them to tide over any crisis beyond their control. The Reserve Bank also offers advice and guidance to scheduled as well as non-scheduled banks by issue of circulars from time to time on important aspects concerning bank management.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Government consider the desirability of looking into the affairs of those small banks and take effective steps so that there may not be any more banking crises or bank failures?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As far as these banks which have now suspended operation are concerned, I think we have in them a big enough problem. I think the best thing is to concentrate whatever resources we have on giving assistance to these banks if circumstances permit.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: I am speaking of those banks that are still working but are not on a sound footing and there is a fear of a crisis any day.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We are keeping a watch on the situation.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Arising out of (a) what is the procedure when there is a false panic or rush on the bank? Does the Reserve Bank come to the assistance of such banks?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The reserve Bank watches the situation and if they find in the circumstances that assistance is called for they give it.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Have they paid any substantial amounts to these banks in West Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: In the case of some banks, they have offered some assistance.

Shri Arun Chandra Guha: Will the Government consider the advisability of taking over those small banks or giving them sufficient guarantee so that they may be run on a sound footing?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The honourable member is making suggestions.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha: Is there any scheme before the Reserve Bank to prevent such failures in Bengal?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: The new Banking Act provides all reasonable safeguards.

RESULT OF F. P. S. C. EXAMINATION FOR R. I. N.

*1464. **Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many cadets have been selected for entry into the permanent cadre of the Commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy as a result of the competitive examination held in November, 1948, by the Federal Public Service Commission and what is the order of their merits in the examination?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Of those who passed the F.P.S.C. examination held in November, 1948, eleven were selected for entry into the permanent cadre of the commissioned ranks of the R.I.N. The position in order of merit of these cadets in the list of those who passed the F.P.S.C. examination was 5th, 6th, 9th, 13th, 14th, 25th, 33rd, 35th, 39th, 49th and 59th respectively. I should like to make it clear, however, that the F.P.S.C. examination is only a qualifying examination. The present selection procedure in the R.I.N. requires candidates first to qualify in a written examination held by the F.P.S.C. and those who pass this examination are interviewed and subjected to certain special tests by a Services Selection Board, whose recommendation is the final criterion for selection.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: What are the special teats that they are subjected to afterwards?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It would be very difficult to describe the tests that the candidates are subjected to by the Selection Board. There are a large number of tests and if the honourable member is intereeted to know the details I could give them later.

Shri Lakshminarayan Sahu: Could the Honourable Minister give a general idea of the tests?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It is very difficult to give an idea. There are physical tests which are carried on for four days and the honourable member can understand what the tests could be. Besides physical tests there are other tests connected with the requirements of the service.

Shri Ajit Prasad Jain: What was the difference in marks between the candidate who stood first in the examination and the last candidate admitted to the cadre?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I require notice.

Shri Mahavir Tyagi: Does any responsible officer of the Defence Department also sit with the Federal Public Service Commission when they make their selection?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not say. It is a written test and the paper is set by the F.P.S.C. It is a qualifying test only.

Mr. Frank Anthony: May I know whether there are any cases of candidates who having passed the written and special tests had failed in the medical examination?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: There may be such cases: I could not say offhand.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: What is the maximum number of marks assigned to the interview and what is the minimum number of marks required for success at the interview?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have stated in reply to the main question, the examination that is held by the F.P.S.C. is a qualifying test only and the candidates have to undergo the tests carried out by the Services Selection Board. It is not possible for me to say whether the number of marks that a candidate secures in the examination held by the F.P.S.C. carries any weight or not.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: I did not ask any question about the F.P.S.C. I wanted to know what was the maximum number of marks assigned to the interview test and what was the minimum mark that should be obtained by a candidate interviewed by the Selection Board in order to be successful in the interview test.

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not say offhand but if the honourable member wants the information I can get it for him.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Are these candidates required to be medically examined in the first instance before they sit for any written test?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: A preliminary medical test is held in the beginning but the final medical test is held only when a candidate is sure to be taken. For those who have been selected after the physical tests, a medical test is again held.

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha: What is the prescribed period of training necessary to make an efficient naval officer?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It depends on the course. In certain cases it is two years and in other cases it is four years.

Shri Raj Bahadur: The Honourable Minister stated that the first candidate to be chosen was fifth in order of merit. May I know on what special test the first four candidates failed to be selected?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: As I have stated, it was only a qualifying test. It is very difficult for me to say in what particular tests the first four candidates failed.

Shri Raj Bahadur: Are these special tests based on the qualities of the head or heart or parentage?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. These are matters of details.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: May I know if there is a psychiatrist in the employment of the Government who examines and interviews these candidates?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is the Honourable Minister aware that the results of a psychiatrist's examination are now looked down upon and are not considered so reliable nowadays?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: They are as reliable as they have been in the past.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that only abnormal candidates are interviewed by the psychiatrist and the rest of the candidates are interviewed by the psychologist?

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know where the psychiatrists have been trained?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

NOMINATION OF LADY MEMBERS ON CANTONMENT BOARDS

*1465. **Sreemathy Annie Mascarene:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Government have nominated any lady members, in place of official members on any Cantonment Board in India?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Yes, one at Mhow.

Sreematty Annie Mascarene: Are Government prepared to nominate more lady members?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: It depends on the vacancies. There was one vacancy at Mhow and one lady has been nominated.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: When vacancies arise, will the Government consider appointing more lady members?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: My honourable friend is a member of the committee and knows what the rules are. There are certain number of vacancies that are allotted to the nominees of the armed forces and out of this quota if there is no officer available then only the vacancy goes to a lady member.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is Committee recently appointed to go into the question of cantonment boards empowered to go also into the question of nominating more women members on the boards?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Mr. Sidhva is a member of the Committee. It should be left to him.

EDUCATION OF GIRLS IN CONTONMENT AREAS

*1466. **Sreematty Annie Mascarene:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state which of the Cantonment Boards in India are maintaining girl's schools and up to which standard do they impart education in these schools?

(b) Which Cantonment Boards are maintaining schools for co-education?

(c) Has any Cantonment Board introduced compulsory free education for girls and if so, when and if not, why not?

(d) What steps have been taken by such Boards to spread education among girls since the attainment of independence?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) to (d). I lay a statement on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

S.No.	Cantonment	Whether Girls' School is maintained	Standard of the School	Whether co-education is maintained	Is education of girls free and compulsory	Steps taken to spread education among girls
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Agra	Yes. Two.	Upto class VIII in Hindi only.	No.	No.	Question of introduction of compulsory education is under consideration.
2	Almora	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
3	Allahabad	Yes. Two.	One upto Upper standard and the other upto primary standard.	No.	No.	Nil.
4	Bareilly	Yes. One.	Upto 5th standard.	No.	No.	Nil.
5	Barrackpore	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in one school.	No.	Nil.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	Benares	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in one primary school.	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
7	Chakrata	Yes. One.	Upto 5th standard.	Co-education in one school.	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
8	Clement Town	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
9	Dehra Dun	Yes. One.	Upto 4th standard.	No.	Free but not compulsory.	One purda girls school building is under construction at a cost of Rs. 29,600.
10	Dinapore	Yes. Two.	One upto primary standard and the other upto lower primary.	No.	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
11	Fatehgarh	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil
12	Fyzabad	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil
13	Jalapahar	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No,	Nil.
14	Jhansi	Yes. One.	Upto primary standard.	No.	No.	Nil.
15	Kanpur	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in one primary school.	No.	A proposal for increased educational facilities for girls submitted by the Board is under consideration.
16	Landour	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
17	Lansdowne	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
18	Lebong	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
19	Lucknow	Yes. Three.	Upto basic primary standard.	No.	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
20	Meerut	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
21	Muttra	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
22	Nainital	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
23	Ramgarh	Yes. One.	Upto upper primary standard.	Co-education in one school.	No.	Steps are being taken by the Board to improve girls' education.
24	Ranikhet	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
25	Roorkee	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil
26	Shahjahanpur	Nil.	Nil.	No	No.	Nil.
27	Shillong	Nil.	Nil.	No	No.	Nil.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
29.	Ahmedabad	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in one primary.	No.	Nil.
30.	Ahmednagar	Yes. Two.	Upto 4th standard.	Co-education in two schools.	No.	Nil.
31.	Belgaum	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in two schools.	No.	Nil.
32.	Cannanore	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
33.	Deolali	Yes. One.	Upto primary standard.	Co-education in four schools.	Free but not compulsory.	One secondary school has been raised to high school standard.
34.	Jubbulpore	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
35.	Kamtee	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
36.	Kirkee	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in two schools	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
37.	Pachmarhi	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
38.	Poona	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
39.	Saugor	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in two schools.	No.	Nil.
40.	St. Thomas Mt. cum Pallavaram.	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in six schools	No.	Nil.
41.	Wellington	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
42.	Ambala	Yes. One.	Upto primary standard.	No.	No.	Nil.
43.	Amritsar	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
44.	Baloch	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
45.	Dagshai	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
46.	Dalhousie	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
47.	Delhi	Yes. Two.	One upto middle standard and the other upto primary standard.	No.	Free but not compulsory.	One primary school has been raised to Middle school standard and one more primary school has been opened. Grants are also given to 2 girls schools in the Cantt.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
47.	Ferozepore	Yes. One.	Upto primary standard.	No.	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
48.	Mhow	Yes. One.	Upto (Anglo vernacular middle school) 7th standard.	No.	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
49.	Nusirabad	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
50.	Subathu	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.
51.	Jullundur	Yes. One.	Upto middle standard.	No.	No.	Nil.
52.	Jutogh	Nil.	Nil.	Co-education in one primary school.	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
53.	Kasauli	Yes. One.	Upto 5th standard.	No.	Free but not compulsory.	Nil.
54.	Khas Yol	Nil.	Nil.	No.	No.	Nil.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Do the figures that are available to the Honourable Minister show that the percentage of literacy in cantonment areas is higher than that in the adjoining *basti* or city areas?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I require notice of that question. I cannot say offhand.

Sreematty Annie Mascarene: Are there any schools for girls in all cantonment areas?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The statement gives the details of the girls schools in different cantonments.

APPOINTMENTS IN ALL INDIA RADIO AFTER 15TH AUGUST, 1947

†*1467. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state in separate categories station-wise the total number of officers (Programme Assistants, Transmission Assistants, Programme Executives, Assistant Station Directors, Station Directors, News Editors and Assistant News Editors) appointed in the All India Radio during the period from 15th August, 1947 to 28th February, 1949?

(b) How many of them were appointed without being approved by Selection Boards, departmental or otherwise, and what were the reasons for the same?

(c) How many of them are still not approved by the Selection Boards?

(d) What is the number of persons serving on the staff today who still hold temporary posts and whose period of service exceeds one year and two years respectively?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Appointments to posts of Programme Assistant and Transmission Assistant are made on the recommendations of the Selection Boards. All

†Taken up in the second round. Printed serially in the day's Debate.—*Ed. of D.*

Higher appointments, *viz.*, those of Station Director, Assistant Station Director, Programme Executive, News Editors and Assistant News Editors are made through the Federal Public Service Commission.

Appointments of twenty-seven Programme Assistants and fourteen Transmission Assistants were made temporarily without going through the Selection Board procedure; out of these twelve Programme Assistants and five Transmission Assistants were appointed on promotion within the Department, while two Programme Assistants and two Transmission Assistants were taken over from the Baroda State Service. These temporary appointments were made to meet the emergent needs of staff in connection with All India Radio's Development Plan. The Partition necessitated emergency recruitment owing to heavy depletion of staff and further no less than six new stations were opened within the course of a year.

(c) Seventeen Programme Assistants and ten Transmission Assistants.

(d) Forty-four and sixteen respectively.

STATEMENT

	Station Director	Assistant Station Director	Programme Executive	Programme Assistant	Transmission Assistant
Headquarters	..	..	1	3	..
Delhi	1	5	4	10	8
External Services Division	..	1	10	6	3
Jullundur	..	2	..	1	3
Lucknow	1	1	2	8	2
Allahabad	..	..	..	4	3
Patna	1	1	3	9	2
Nagpur	1	1	2	7	2
Bombay	..	2	5	11	3
Ahmedabad	..	..	1	..	1
Baroda	..	..	2	3	3
Madras	..	2	3	4	4
Trichy	1	2	4	2	3
Vijayawada	..	1	1	2	1
Calcutta	..	3	3	4	1
Shillong	1	3	1	9	0
Cuttack	2	1	1	7	1
Total	8	24	43	99	43

	News Editors.	Assistant News Editors
News Services Division	2	13

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: With reference to the reply to part (b), may I know whether any meeting of the Selection Board was called ever since it was appointed, and whether it is a fact that the Selection Board was appointed in May—June, 1947 and that no appointment has been made after consultation with the Selection Board up till now?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: They were temporary appointments; their emoluments as well as their permanent nature had not been fixed. Therefore, these were not put before the Selection Board.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that prior to the appointment of this Board, all temporary appointments were also made in consultation with the Selection Boards?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I have no information.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Will the Honourable Minister look into it?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Yes.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: May I know how many provincial broadcasting stations have selection boards and how many boards have non-official members?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Selection Boards are not permanent bodies, but they are appointed for the occasion. It has now been decided that there will be also non-official members on these Selection Boards.

Shrimati G. Durgabai: My question is whether the Selection Boards that are already functioning contain non-official members?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: No.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it not a fact that all the members of this Selection Board, which consisted of officials and non-officials, were local men and it was possible to call a meeting at a very short notice?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: As already pointed out, as the appointments were of a temporary nature and the emoluments, etc., were not fixed, they were not brought before the Selection Board.

Seth Govind Das: Are there any persons in these temporary appointments who were famous for their anti-Indian views in the past?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I have no knowledge.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether there are a number of persons who have been working as temporary employees for more than three years?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I have no knowledge. I have already stated that there are people who are there for more than one and two years. I may now say that most of these posts have been referred already either to the F.P.S.C. or to the Selection Boards.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the maximum period for which an appointment is regarded as temporary?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: It is usually one year.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: Is it a fact that this Selection Board was dissolved without ever bringing any case before it?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: Because there was no work, it was dissolved.

PROMOTIONS TO NON-GRADUATES IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

†*1468. **Shri Deshbandhu Gupta:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Graduates holding appointments as Superintendents and above in the Ministry of Defence and other Ministries on 15th March, 1949 and who fall in the category of temporary Government servants;

(b) whether it is a fact that orders have recently been issued that only Graduates should be appointed to these posts and if so, whether it will apply to future appointments or will have retrospective effect; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in some instances persons having more than 9 years' service to their credit and having served as superintendents for several years are also being reverted to the posts of Assistants held by them previously under the said order?

†Was not reached during the question hour.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) and (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) Posts of Superintendents are filled by promotion from Assistants. No one who is not a Graduate unless he is a permanent clerk is eligible for the post of an Assistant, and no one who is not eligible to be an Assistant can be promoted as Superintendent. Instructions have been issued to enforce this rule in respect of persons not yet confirmed as Superintendents. Such persons will be replaced as and when suitable and qualified substitutes are available.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NAVAL STATIONS

*1469. **Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the places where Government are going to establish Naval Stations on the East and West Coasts of India?

(b) Is it a fact that Bombay harbour is not capable of receiving training ships of the tonnage of Nelson and, as such, it was not possible to buy such training ships?

(c) Have Government any proposal to lay the Keels of (i) Battleships; (ii) Cruisers; (iii) Aircraft-carriers; (iv) Destroyers; (v) Submarines; (vi) Sloops; (vii) Corvetts and Frigates; (viii) Minesweepers; (ix) Oil Tankers; (x) Depot Ships; (xi) Repairships; (xii) Gun-Boats; (xiii) Trawlers; (xiv) Petrol Carriers; and (xv) Hospital Ships?

(d) If so, what is the programme and how many years do they want to complete it?

(e) What is the ultimate cost involved in the scheme and what is the yearly cost involved?

(f) What was the amount of Naval Expenditure in the year 1939 in the United States of America, United Kingdom, France, Germany and Japan and what it is now (except Germany and Japan)?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) Government have no proposal in view regarding a new naval station either on the West or on the East coast.

(b) No. In not acquiring such a ship as a training ship Government were not influenced by this consideration, but by other vital issues such as dockyard facilities, cost of maintenance of such a vessel, etc.

(c) No.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

(f) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

A. Naval expenditure in the year 1939.

Country	Year	Expenditure
U. K.	1939	£149,399,000
U. S. A.	1939-40	$778,049,161
France	1939	Francs 9,687,000,000
Japan	1939-40	Yen 826,752,432

Naval Expenditure in respect of Germany is not available after 1933-34. Expenditure during that financial year was Marks 186,248,200.

B. *Present Naval Expenditure:*

Country	Year.	Expenditure
U. K.	1948-49	£153,000,000
U. S. A.	1948-49	$3,686,733,250

Information with regard to the naval expenditure of the other countries mentioned in the question are not available.

RATE OF EXCHANGE OF RUPEE INTO STERLING

*1470. **Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state why our expenditure during the year has been converted at 1 shilling and 5 31/32 pence in place of the usual conversion proportion of 1½ shillings to the rupee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Sterling transactions are adjusted in the accounts at the average rate of exchange, the average rate for each month being the average of the daily Calcutta telegraphic transfer rates on London during the month. The average rate for the current year is likely to be 1 sh. 5-31/32 d. the rupee, the rate adopted for the revised estimate. As it is not possible to forecast the rate for the coming year provision is always made at the conventional rate of 1 sh. 6 d. the rupee in the Budget.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether Government have considered the strong feeling against this exchange ratio of 1½ s. for the rupee, which existed even before the 15th August, 1947?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: What is the kind of feeling the honourable member is referring to?

Mr. Speaker: The feeling against the ratio.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Is the honourable member raising a supplementary out of this question or referring to the question of the suitability of the present rate of exchange?

Shri Biswanath Das: I could have the information either on this question or on the other question.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I do not understand the question.

Mr. Speaker: That is partly my difficulty too.

Shri Biswanath Das: Do Government realise the strong feeling in this country against the ratio of 1½ sh. to the rupee that existed also before the 15th August, 1947?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Perhaps I better explain the position. As the honourable member knows, the link between the rupee and the sterling no longer exists consequent on the amendment of the relevant section of the Reserve Bank of India Act. At present our exchange ratio really is the result of the rate that we have adopted under the International Monetary Fund Agreement in relation to gold and dollar, so that our relation to sterling is derived from our relation to gold and dollar.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know the basis on which this exchange ratio of 5-31/32 pence has been fixed?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is the average rate of the exchange during the year in question—the rate based on transactions actually put through.

Shri Raj Bahadur: What has been the financial effect of the reduction by 1/32 pence in the value of the rupee?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I am quite unable to understand the question

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether Government are not free to reconsider the question of the equivalent of the rupee in the sterling at 1 shilling 4 pence as before?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I said in answer to that question that we are now linked through the International Monetary Fund.

Shri Raj Bahadur: May I know how much more the Government had to pay on account of the reduction by 1/32 pence in the value of the rupee?

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Minister has said that it is based upon the average of the actual transactions.

GOLD AND SILVER IMPORTED FROM U.S.A. UNDER 'LEASE-LEND'

*1471. **Shri Biswanath Das:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold as also the quantity of silver imported into India in the name of "lease-lend" from the United States of America during the war;

(b) the use to which such gold and silver was put;

(c) whether India has to pay back the "lease-lend" gold and silver; and

(d) if so how?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) 226 million ounces of silver were obtained from the U.S. Government during the war on lend/lease. No gold was imported on this basis.

(b) Part of the silver was utilised for coinage, a portion of it was sold to the market and the rest remained with Government.

(c) The silver was obtained on the understanding that it would be returned in kind, ounce for ounce, within five years of the date on which the U.S. President declared the end of the emergency.

(d) This will be considered at the proper time.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how much was used for coinage?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: About 123 million ounces.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: What is the proportion in the rupee of the silver that is used?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: As the honourable member probably knows, there is no current silver coinage being minted. But the silver coin that we used to have before contained about 50 per cent. of silver.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: The Honourable Minister said that part of it is used in coinage. On what coinage is it used?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That was before in the quaternary coinage.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know whether any portion of this silver was put into auction or sale and if so how much?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I think about 47 million ounces were sold in the market.

Shri Biswanath Das: May I know the rate at which it was sold and the profit if any, that was made?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Rs. 127 per 100 folas.

Shri Biswanath Das: What arrangements are Government making to meet the demand if and when it comes for repayment to U.S.A.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: We have got a certain amount of silver with us. It might be necessary to collect the quaternary coins that contain silver and have them refined, but the problem has not yet arisen as the President of the United States has not yet declared that the emergency is at an end. It is only five years after such declaration that the problem arises.

Shri Biswanath Das: I quite see the point, but knowing as we do the rise in the price of silver now what will be the loss to India in this regard?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: This problem arises at an indefinite time in the future.

CONSTITUTION OF CANTONMENT BOARDS IN SECUNDERABAD AND MHOW

*1472. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether Cantonment Boards have again been constituted in the Cantonments of Secunderabad and Mhow and if so, from which dates?

(b) Do the Boards consist of purely official Members or some elected members also?

(c) What is the strength of official and elected members on these Boards?

(d) Has the Cantonments Act been applied *in toto* to these Cantonments or have any changes been made while applying the Act to these two Cantonments?

(e) What is the total civiliau population of these two Cantonments?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) No Cantonment Board has yet been constituted at Secunderabad. In Mhow, the Cantonment Board constituted prior to 14th August, 1947 is functioning.

(b) and (c). In view of answer at (a) above these questions do not arise in the case of Secunderabad Cantonment. As regards Mhow, the Cantonment Board consists of both official as well as elected members, as below:

Officer Commanding the station—President;

One Magistrate of the First Class nominated by Holkar Durbar;

Health Officer, Executive Engineer—Ex-Officio member;

Four Military Officers nominated by the Officer Commanding the Station;

Seven elected members.

(d) The Cantonments Act 1924, was applied with a few verbal changes to enable the powers of the Central Government under the Act to be exercised by the appropriate authorities in the State.

(e) The population as per census of 1941 is given below:

Secunderabad—40,044.

Mhow—35,261.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Committee recently appointed by Government to revise the Cantonment Boards Act held any meeting so far?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: Not as yet.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Have the zonal Committees started functioning at all?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I could not give definite information about it, but if the honourable member is interested I can get the information.

Shri Radhavallabh Vijlavergiya: Is the Honourable Minister aware of the long and continued agitation by the Mhow people for the removal of the Executive Officer of the Mhow Cantonment Board?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I am not aware of it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to expedite the work of the Committee appointed recently?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: The honourable member knows that Government is very anxious to expedite the work of this Committee.

EXPENDITURE ON CANTONMENTS AND MILITARY LANDS DEPARTMENT

*1473. **Shri R. K. Sidhva:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state the total amount estimated to be spent in the year 1949-50 for the Cantonments and Military Lands Department and the sub-head to which it is debited?

(b) How much of the total expenditure is needed to meet the pay and allowances of the Director of Cantonments, the Deputy Director of Cantonments, the Deputy Assistant Director of Cantonments, the Military Estates Officers Grades I and II and towards half the pay of Executive Officers?

(c) How much of the total expenditure is needed to cover the establishment of officers of this Department?

(d) What steps are Government taking to review the expenditure of this Department and effect economies in it?

(e) Has the Economy Committee gone into the question of retrenchment in the Cantonment and Military Lands Department?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (a) A sum of Rs. 15,05,000 has been provided for on this account under sub-heads L and O of Main-head 3 and sub-head C of Main-head 4 of Major Head 58 (Demand No. 76) of the Defence Services Estimates for 1949-50.

(b) Rs. 2,72,800.

(c) I presume the Honourable member wishes to know the provision made for expenditure on the Ministerial establishment. If that is so, the answer is Rs. 2,26,998.

(d) I am not aware that a special review is called for. The need for the staff sanctioned has been examined from time to time and, in regard to other expenditure, the necessity for it is very carefully considered before any sanction is accorded.

(e) No, as the Economy Committee is concerned only with appointments the expenditure on which is met from the Civil Estimates.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: As regards part (e) do not the Government consider the Cantonment and Military Lands Department as a municipal administration and do Government propose to place its expenditure before the Economy Committee?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: No, Sir, that is not the intention at present

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know the reason?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: I have already explained the reason that at present the Cantonment Boards are not financed from Civil Estimates.

RECEIPTS FROM AIR SURCHARGE ON LETTERS AND POST CARDS

*1474. **Prof. K. T. Shah:** Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the letter to the Editor, appearing in the *Bombay Chronicle*, dated the 9th March, 1949

(City Edition), by Dr. M. S. Patel, with regard to the cost of production of a post card, and if so, whether Government propose to explain the difference in the cost, namely, 8·2 pies as stated by him while replying to the general debate on the Budget on the 5th March, 1949;

(b) whether the cost mentioned by him includes any service charges of the collection, conveyance and delivery, as well as the *pro-rata* overhead charge of the postal administration;

(c) how this cost of production as stated by him, including, or excluding service charges and overhead expenses, compares with corresponding cost of a post card in (i) the United Kingdom; (ii) the United States of America; and (iii) Canada; and

(d) what are the gross receipts derived from air surcharge on letter and post card mail in the years 1947-48 and 1948-49 up to 31st December, 1948.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) and (b). Yes. The cost of 8·2 pies represents the total cost of a post card and includes all charges such as manufacture, handling, conveyance and overheads. Revised calculations taking into account the latest figures of expenditure show that the cost is 9·8 pies per post card.

The actual cost of production of a post card is estimated to be 1·25 pies.

(c) In the United Kingdom the cost of production and handling of a post-card is 1·5655 d. or 1·4 annas, in the United States of America 0·026 dollars or approximately 1·4 annas and in Canada it is 0·02349 dollars or 1·2 annas, according to the information obtained from their respective administrations.

(d) Account of revenue from air mail surcharge is not maintained separately. It is, however, estimated that the revenue from surcharge alone (excluding ordinary surface postage) on all air mail letters in 1947-48 was 90 lakhs and for nine months in 1948-49 Rs. 62 lakhs.

Prof. K. T. Shah: May I ask the Honourable Minister whether he fixes these postal rates on a commercial basis with a view to recover the total cost at least or on the basis of the post office being a public utility service?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That raises a general question of policy to which I am not in a position to give a reply. The honourable member should put the question to the Minister concerned.

Prof. K. T. Shah: May I know what are the postal rates in respect of post cards in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, and how they compare to ours?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not the exact information. I looked into it some time ago when the honourable member was making a severe attack on me in respect of this matter, and my recollection is that in the U.K. and in the U.S.A. it is higher, but about Canada I have no information.

Prof. K. T. Shah: How do these charges compare to the respective *per capita* income of the countries concerned?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I should have thought the relevant point was how these rates compared with our costs.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Is it a fact that a post card in the United States costs only one cent, which means 2 pice in terms of Indian money?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not got the exact figure with me, perhaps I might find it out and tell the honourable member.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What are the various items that are comprised in what is comprehensively called service and handling charges?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: Manufacture, handling, conveyance, overheads, delivery, all that sort of thing.

Shri H. V. Kamath: What is the cost of each of these various items?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: You mean a breakdown of these?

Shri H. V. Kamath: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: If the honourable member really wants to have it, I am prepared to have a complete analysis made.

Shri H. V. Kamath: It will take a long time.

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Minister be pleased to state the cost of paper, the cost of printing and the cost of service separately?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: That is the cost of production analysed?

Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad: Yes.

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: I have not got it here. I will have to work it out.

SLUMS IN DELHI

*1475 **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Health be be pleased to state:

(a) how many slums there are in Delhi through which even conservancy carts cannot pass; and

(b) what progress has so far been achieved in the slum clearance scheme of the Delhi Improvement Trust?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

(b) A statement showing the present position regarding the various slum clearance schemes of the Delhi Improvement Trust is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

Present position regarding the various slum clearance schemes of the Delhi Improvement Trust

Nazul	Complete or practically complete—
	Nil.
	Under execution—
	1. Basti Ara Kashan.
	2. Ahata Kidara Scheme.
	3. Yamuna Village Slum Clearance.
Trust	Complete or practically complete—
	1. Hathi Khana Slum Clearance.
	Under execution—
	1. Delhi Ajmeri Gate Slum Clearance Scheme.
	2. Paharganj Circus Scheme.
	3. Motia Khan Slum Clearance Scheme.
	4. Serai Pirani Idgah Slum Clearance and Development Scheme.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know whether it is a fact that the Delhi Improvement Trust has not been able to clear any slums ever since it came into existence?

Mr. Speaker: That is an expression of opinion on his part.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: It is a matter of fact.

Mr. Speaker: May be, but what is the information that he wants?

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I want to know whether it is a fact that the Delhi Improvement Trust has not done any work so far as slum clearance is concerned.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think that question can be allowed. The Honourable Minister has already replied.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Delhi Improvement Trust any scheme or plan to demolish old dilapidated structures and build anew?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: Yes, Sir. The Delhi Improvement Trust has many schemes for Delhi, but I would have honourable members remember that owing to the inordinate influx of refugees into Delhi many of our schemes are completely held up.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it a fact that in many parts of Old Delhi there are exposed drains and latrines?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I would have to have notice of that question.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: May I know the amount spent by the Delhi Improvement Trust on slum clearance during the last ten years or eversince it came into existence?

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I can give that information to the honourable member—I have not got it with me just now.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: What amount of land is in possession of the Delhi Improvement Trust and how long has it been in its possession?

Mr. Speaker: Does the honourable member want the total area of land?

Babu Ramnarayan Singh: Yes, Sir, and I also want to know for how long it existed in their possession.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I could furnish that information also to the Honourable Member if he so desires.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Sir, one more question.

Mr. Speaker: Let us go to the next Question. The Honourable Minister cannot be expected to have all these details on hand.

Shri Deshbandhu Gupta: I want some information, Sir. I want to know the total area of land acquired by the Improvement Trust for its different improvement schemes.

The Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur: I cannot carry all the details in my head, but I will furnish the honourable member with the information if he so desires.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Has the Minister at any time taken a walk through the streets of Delhi to see for herself these filthy slums?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order.

Bengal Regulation Act of 1818

*1476. **Shri H. V. Kamath:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state the number of times Bengal Regulation Act of 1818 has been invoked since 15 August, 1947.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Central Government has passed orders for the detention of eight persons under the Bengal Regulation of 1818 since the 15th August, 1947.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Does Government propose to repeal this black Act?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Well, it depends upon the new Constitution that is being considered at present by the Constituent Assembly, and the Constituent Assembly is free to remove that portion of the legislation from the Constitution.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Am I to understand, Sir, that no previous Acts have been repealed without reference to the Constituent Assembly?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Some legislation may have been repealed—I do not think I would be correct in answering that no legislation has been repealed.

Shri H. V. Kamath: My point was, does Government propose to repeal this Act without reference to the Constituent Assembly?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Government do not propose to repeal this part of the legislation till the Constituent Assembly considers it.

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is it not a fact that till some years ago all Congress leaders condemned this as a black Act?

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. The honourable member is arguing.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Is it a fact that the Provincial Governments are making rather a 'liberal' use of this legislation even today?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: No order has been passed by the Provincial Legislatures under this regulation and therefore it cannot be used by them.

STRENGTH OF STATES ARMIES BEFORE MERGER

*1477. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of States be pleased to state the total strength of the Armies maintained before merger by the Indian States that have now been merged?

(b) What steps have been taken to absorb the personnel of these armies in the Indian Army?

(c) Have any of them been discharged and if so, how many?

(d) What is the number of those who have been absorbed and how were they absorbed?

(e) Have their salaries been raised or reduced?

(f) Have Government seen that their action does not entail any hardship to these persons?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: (a) A statement showing the authorised strength of units of Merged States before merger has been placed on the table.

(b) In the case of the Merged States of Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Kutch, the regular State Forces Units have been inspected by a team of officers detailed by the Indian Army and action has already been taken to effect their absorption. A board of officers has already visited Kolhapur and executive orders for the integration of the units of this State will be issued shortly by Army Headquarters.

(c) to (f) The present position is that these forces are still maintained on the same scales of pay and establishments as immediately before the States were merged in the Provinces or were constituted into Chief Commissioner's Provinces. When the steps mentioned in answer to part (b) above are completed, these forces will be absorbed in the Indian Army. In doing so, it is Government's intention that the interests of the personnel of these Indian States Forces should be adequately safeguarded.

STATEMENT

Latest strength of merger states forces as existed before merger

Units	Authorised			
	SOs.	JCOs.	IORs.	Total
Gujarat State Forces.—				
Baria Ranjit Infantry	2	5	158	165
Idar Sir Pratap Infantry	2	5	158	165
Lunawada Infantry Company	2	5	158	165
Rajpipla State Infantry	2	5	158	165
				660
Himachal Pradesh Forces.—				
Chamba Infantry	2	4	157	163
Mandi Joginder Inf. Company	2	4	147	153
Sirmur Field Company	5	6	241	251
Sirmur Rifle Company	2	6	221	229
Suket Ind. Infantry Coy.	2	5	158	165
				961
Kutch State Forces.—				
Kutch Infantry Battalion	10	19	515	544
Kutch W/T Section	..	1	34	35
				579
Rajpipla State Forces.—				
Rajaram Rifles	15	14	823	852
Rajaram Rifles Trg. Centre	1	1	59	61
Rajaram Rifles Boys Trg. Unit	..	..	15	15
				928
Baroda State Forces.—				
Baroda Lancers	10	19	515	544
1st Baroda Infantry	18	26	723	767
2nd Baroda Infantry	15	26	722	763
Baroda W/T Section	1	1	54	56
Baroda Infantry Trg. Centre	3	9	230	242
Baroda Boys Trg. Unit	..	..	15	15
				2,383

Shri M. Tirumala Rao: With regard to part (b), we see that the Hyderabad army is being disbanded by the 1st of April. Is there any intention to absorb that army with the Indian army?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The Hyderabad question is entirely separate.

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL INDIAN NEWS AGENCY

*1478. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state whether there is any News Agency called the National Indian News Agency?

(b) If so, when was it formed?

(a) Have Government taken any part in establishing it?

(d) Who are the promoters and directors of this News Agency?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: (a) Government have no information that there is any News Agency called the National Indian News Agency.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether any [illegible] by the Government in cash or in kind?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know whether the Associated Press are to the extent subsidised by getting more service to the Government [illegible]?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: No.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: May I know how much service [illegible] the Reuters and the Associated Press?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: According to rates.

Shri R. K. Sidhva: Do they contribute for one service or more than that?

The Honourable Shri R. R. Diwakar: I want notice.

INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING FIXATION OF SENIORITY AND ABSORPTION OF "INDIA OPTED" GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

1479. **Shri Damodar Swarup Seth:** Will the Honourable Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state whether detailed instructions about the fixing of the seniority and the final absorption of the "India-opted" [illegible] brought over to the Indian Union from areas now in Pakistan have since been issued by Government?

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Instructions have been issued in respect of persons posted as Assistants in the Central Secretariat. As regards others, the question is still under consideration and general instructions will be issued as soon as possible.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

EXPENDITURE ON EACH CATEGORY OF SERVICES IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

1483. **Dr. P. S. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Honourable Minister of Finance be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of [illegible] (with years inclusive)?

(b) What are the [illegible] and what was the date of creation and what expenditure was incurred on them during each of the years upto 1948-49?

The Honourable Dr. John Matthai: (a) [illegible] collecting the information [illegible] thereby.

(b) A statement will be laid on the table of the House as soon as the information has been collected.

TIME TAKEN FOR LAYING OF KEELS OF SHIPS IN U.K. OR U.S.A.

123. **Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha:** Will the Honourable Minister of Defence be pleased to state how many years the keels of the following classes of ships take for completion in the United Kingdom or in the United States of America:

(i) Battleship;

(ii) Aircraft-Carrier;

(iii) Heavy Cruiser; and

(iv) Light Cruiser?

The Honourable Sardar Baldev Singh: (i) to (iv). The actual laying of the keel does not take more than three to six months in any of the types of vessel mentioned. However, prior to laying the keel, considerable planning and designing have to be undertaken and the time taken on these depends largely on whether the ship is designed as an entirely new type or a modification of an existing class of vessels.

Monday
28th March, 1949

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Official Report

Volume III, 1949

(19th March, 1949 to 5th April, 1949)

Fourth Session

OF THE

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA
(LEGISLATIVE)

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CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OF INDIA (LEGISLATIVE) DEBATES

(PART II—PROCEEDINGS OTHER THAN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS)

Monday, 28th March, 1949

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(See Part I).

11-45 A.M.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned, until the end of the next financial year *vice* Shri Satis Chandra Samanta resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Ministry of Agriculture is concerned, until the end of the next financial year *vice* Shri Satis Chandra Samanta resigned."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Honourable Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Minister of State): I move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Ministry of Communications is concerned, until the end of the next financial year *vice* Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya resigned."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the Speaker may direct, one member to serve on the Standing Committee to advise on subjects with which the Ministry of Communications is concerned, until the end of the next financial year *vice* Shri U. Srinivasa Mallayya resigned."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the honourable Members that for the purpose of receiving nominations for the election of one member to each of the two Standing Committees for the Ministries of Agriculture and Communications, the Notice office will remain open upto 3 P.M. today and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Tuesday the 29th March, 1949. The election by means of the single transferable vote will be held in the Assistant Secretary's room (No. 21) in the Council House, between the hours 10-30 A.M. and 1 P.M.

ELECTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRIES OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND LABOUR

Mr. Speaker: I have also to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for the Standing Committees for the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting and Labour, ten nominations in the case of the first and eleven nominations in the case of the second were received. Subsequently one Member in the case of the second withdrew his candidature. As the number of remaining candidates is thus equal to the number of vacancies in each of these committees, I declare the following Members to be duly elected: —

I. *Standing Committees for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.*—Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, Shri Arun Chandra Guha, Shri Ram Nath Goenka, Shrimati G. Durgabai, Dr. Dharam Prakash, Shri Sri Narayan Mahtha, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, Shri R. B. Vijaivergiya, Shri V. Ramiah, and Begum Aizaz Rasul.

II. *Standing Committee for the Ministry of Labour.*—Maulana Hasrat Mohani, Dr. H. C. Mookerjee, Shri Damoder Swarup Seth, Shri Nandkishore Das, Shri Gopikrishna Vijayavargiya, Shri Harihar Nath Shastri, Shri Khandubhai K. Desai, Shri V. C. Kesava Rao, Shri Gokulbhai Daulatram Bhatt, and Mr. Homi Mody.

DELHI HOTELS (CONTROL OF ACCOMMODATION) BILL.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil (Minister of Works, Mines and Power): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the control of accommodation in certain hotels in the province of Delhi.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the control of accommodation in certain hotels in the province of Delhi."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Shri N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister of Home Affairs and the States): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, be taken into consideration."

This is a simple, short non-controversial measure. In the case of trials in certain cases of public servants for misconduct or misdemeanour, we have found that material witnesses were not in India. They were either in Pakistan or in some other country.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): We are not able to hear.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I am sorry. This Bill to amend the Criminal Procedure Code is a non-controversial, short simple measure. In the case of several trials of public servants, we found that material witnesses were not in India; they were either in Pakistan or in some States or outside either in England or in the Dominions, and it was impossible to bring home guilt to the accused in the trial in the absence of relevant material evidence in those cases. Therefore, we felt that the defect of the Act for the time being should be remedied by the promulgation of an Ordinance as there

was no other way to proceed with the trial of those cases. Therefore, an Ordinance was passed to make admissible the evidence of these witnesses recorded outside. That Ordinance now expires in May 1949, and as there is no provision authorising the courts in India to recognise this evidence, and in order to substitute the Ordinance by permanent legislation, we have brought this simple, short measure. Sir, I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, be taken into consideration."

Srijut Kuladhar Chaliha (Assam: General): Sir, I do not want to make a speech, but I do want to understand a little. There is a provision in sub-clause (2) of clause 2 that when a witness resides in a tribal area, the commission may be issued to an officer exercising the powers of a District Magistrate, and in (4) we find that where the commission is issued to an officer exercising the powers of a District Magistrate in a tribal area, he may delegate his powers and duties to any officer subordinate to him. There is nothing very difficult there, but our difficulty is this, that when a witness is examined, in a tribal area, we do not get any defence lawyer to go there and permits are not allowed, and when one is examined in a far away place like Naga Hills or Kohima, no defence lawyers are available, and permits are not allowed by the District executive for anybody to go there. Therefore executive instructions may be issued by the Home Ministry that in every case where a witness is examined in a tribal area where there is no defence lawyer available, permits should be allowed to defence lawyers to go there and cross-examine witnesses. Otherwise, great injustice will be done, because the evidence will be one-sided. There is always some difficulty for defence lawyer to go there. Therefore, in such case, as a matter of course permits should be allowed. I would therefore request the honourable Minister to see that executive instructions are issued to officers who are to execute these commissions; otherwise, great injustice will be done to accused who are charged with criminal breach and other offences. I think this aspect of the question should be taken note of.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The point raised by the honourable Member will be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: We will now proceed clause by clause. There is one amendment to clause 1. So I will put the other clauses together.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 6 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in clause 1 of the Bill, for the brackets and word '(Amendment)', the brackets and words '(Second Amendment)' be substituted."

We have already passed one amendment in this House. So the word 'Second' may be substituted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That in clause 1 of the Bill, for the brackets and word '(Amendment)', the brackets and words '(Second Amendment)' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Title and the Preamble stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S SALARY (EXEMPTION FROM TAXATION) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for exempting the reduced salary of the Governor-General from taxes on income, be taken into consideration."

This is another Bill, which is also a very short one, which arose at the instance of the Governor-General. He wrote to Government about his salary, which till then was provided in the Schedule, according to which Rs. 2,50,000 were annually provided as salary for the Governor-General. He drew the attention of the Government. There was also some controversy going on in the public about it. Taking all these facts into consideration, Government came to the conclusion, considering all the relevant facts, that the Governor-General's salary should be fixed at Rs. 5,500 as suggested by him and that it should be free from any taxes. As it was found necessary and advisable to set at rest all these controversies, we passed an Ordinance and we now wish to substitute it by this piece of legislation. I hope there will be no controversy here also.

I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for exempting the reduced salary of the Governor-General from taxes on income, be taken into consideration."

Shri H. V. Kamath (C. P. and Berar: General): Mr. Speaker, I should have been very happy, Sir, had a Bill of this nature been brought before this House soon after one of our revered leaders, Srijut Rajagopalachariar, took over or assumed charge of the high office of Governor-General of this country, of Free India, towards the end of June 1948. It would have had then a

tremendous psychological effect which it may not evoke today. The honourable the Home Minister has remarked in his speech that there was a lot of controversy going on in the Press and among the public, and the Bill introduced now might give the impression that it was partly because of that controversy that this measure has been brought before the House. This could have been obviated had a Bill like this, where our highest dignitary of the State voluntarily foregoes a part of his former income, been brought before this House during the last Session that is in August, because in July there was no Session: and the whole nation would have appreciated and would have really hailed it as a Gandhian measure in tune with the spirit of Gandhism in which we have been brought up and for which we have suffered during the last thirty years or more. But, Sir, it was not to be. However, the Bill is before the House and we all welcome it with all our heart.

There are, however, Sir, one or two points mentioned in this Bill on which I would request the honourable the Home Minister to throw a little light. I was rather upset to read, even in this Bill which has been moved to-day, the second sentence of the objects and reasons of the Bill: namely,

"After a careful consideration of His Excellency's proposal, Government agree to accept it and further decide that having regard to the high office and dignity of the position of the head of the State the salary drawn at the reduced rate of Rs. 5,500 per mensem should be free of taxes."

I do not know exactly what is at the back of the Minister's mind as regards the meaning of the sentence, but as worded here, it would mean that the dignity of our Governor-General would suffer, be it in ever so small a measure, if the salary drawn at this rate were not free of taxes. Is it the Government's contention that the salary of a high dignitary, if subject to income-tax, would detract from the dignity of the holder of that office? I think during the last Budget Session when the Bill for salaries of Ministers was introduced in this House, the point was raised, or perhaps on an earlier occasion, whether the Ministers' salaries would be subject to income-tax or not. There was some little dispute about that matter, but ultimately it was agreed that it was quite straight and honest to legislate and provide that the salaries of Ministers should be subject to income-tax as the salaries of everyone else in this land. That would introduce an element of equality in our present constitutional ethics, economics and political morality, which I think everybody is anxious to secure.

After all, Sir, when all is said and done, what is dignity? What is meant by the dignity of the State? Does it merely consist in the amount of salary or allowances that the head of the State actually draws, or is it supposed to consist in something else? To my mind, it consists, in the strength of the State—the political, economic, moral and spiritual strength of the State—and also the respect and the regard, the affection which it commands from the other nations of the world. If the yard-stick of dignity of the State were the salary of the head of the State, then I think on this earth today Stalin would be very undignified. I understand that during the pre-war years—I do not know the latest position—Stalin in Russia used to draw as his personal salary an amount equivalent to about Rs. 200 in our currency. We here are not concerned with the allowances of the Governor-General. We are anxious that he should get all the allowances possible—sumptuary allowances and all the allowances of his establishment. But this salary is a personal salary and my contention is that if it is sought to be sustained or supported on the plea of the dignity of the State, then certain difficulties will arise. Herr Hitler, in Germany, before his unfortunate end, drew, I understand, no salary whatever. Stalin drew a little salary but Herr Hitler drew no salary at all. He was provided with everything he wanted for his entire chancellery expenses. But as his personal salary, he drew not a single mark.

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The Prime Minister in the last Session of the House in August, when a question was put to him in this connection, referred to this matter in these terms:

"The Governor-General is the head of the State, the representative of the State, and he has to keep up a certain dignity to provide for the guests who come, to hold big official entertainments and the like. Therefore, while it is desirable of course to reduce expenditure wherever possible, it is also desirable that the dignity of the State should not suffer."

I agree. Sir, so far as the items mentioned here, such as providing for guests, to hold entertainments, all these are comprised in the allowances that are so sumptuously allowed to the Governor-General in the list that was given at that time, namely,

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Sumptuary allowance	...	Rs. 3,750 p.m.
Expenditure on contract allowance	...	Rs. 29,166 p.m.
State conveyance and maintenance of motor cars	...	Rs. 5,250 p.m.
Establishment	...	Rs. 50,500 p.m.

We do not want to reduce a single pie of these allowances if they are absolutely necessary. But to seek to justify a salary, however high or low it may be on the plea of dignity of the State, goes rather against the grain. It jars upon one's sense of values.

After all, the British regime fixed this high salary for the Governor-General not for the dignity of the State. We are entirely mistaken if the British Government fixed it only from that consideration—the dignity of the head of the State. But it was more from consideration of the pomp and panoply of Imperial power. They wanted to impress the populace, the common man, with this huge establishment—a man drawing Rs. 20,000 a month, whose salary is higher than the salary that any other dignitary in the world draws! That is the idea behind that creation. But after the passing of the British rule, by the Grace of God and by the efforts of all of us, a new dispensation was ushered in and it was expected on all hands that in India a salutary change would be made. It has been made today and it is very welcome.

Here again I certainly do not approve of this little clause having been introduced here. It has been made income-tax-free, apparently because of the high office and the dignity of the office of the head of the State. Any other reason might have been given. Some other reason perhaps may be there as to why it has been made income-tax-free. But as it has been put here it conveys the unfortunate impression that to pay income-tax detracts from dignity. I suppose even you, Sir, as the Speaker of this supreme legislature, pay income-tax and I am sure nobody in this House will contend that thereby the dignity of the Chair has suffered in any way. Your salary has not been made income-tax-free. The Prime Minister pays income-tax, the Home Minister pays income-tax and we are all sure that their dignity has not suffered in any way by the payment of income-tax.

This has also by the way created an impression that though the figure of Rs. 5,500 as the agreed salary of the Governor-General appears reasonably low, it is not quite so straight. Some uncharitable and malicious critics have worked out the whole thing and tried to ascertain the figure of the salary, had it been subject to income-tax. This is very unfortunate. We do not want this thing to happen but certainly we cannot prevent malicious people from indulging in their favourite pastime. One of the papers in India went so far as to write editorially, on the front page, that all this is not quite

honest. They have worked out the figure and stated that Rs. 5,500 tax free actually amounts to Rs. 14,138/13/4 per month, subject to income-tax and supertax, according to the present rates. We do not certainly grudge giving even this much to the Governor-General, if our Government is of the opinion that he is in need of it. But the whole matter should have been presented to this House in a much more acceptable manner and the House, as I said, would have certainly welcomed it, had it come earlier. But today, as it has come, I would have wished that this matter of the dignity of the State had not been brought in, because to my mind dignity consists in quite other essentials, of the mind and of the soul.

We in India from time immemorial have glorified and held up to the world the sublime ideals of *Sanyasa* and *aparigraha* and we have taught to the world that this is the highest conception of the dignity of the human being. If in spite of this ideal of *Sanyasa* and *aparigraha* our own leaders tell us today that to maintain the dignity of the head of the state he is to be paid so much salary, and income-tax-free also, certainly it is a bit too hard to swallow.

The second point is that in the statement of objects and reasons it is stated in the first sentence thus:

"His Excellency the Governor-General had some months ago raised the question of an immediate reduction in his salary and proposed that it might be fixed at Rs. 5,500 a month, which is the salary of the President of the Union under the new Constitution."

I have got a copy of the Draft Constitution with me. I would only request the Home Minister to tell the House whether in conformity with what has been adopted in this measure brought before the House the Governors of the various provinces too would henceforth draw the salary that has been proposed for the Governors of States in the Draft Constitution. It stands to reason that if the Draft Constitution is taken as the basis for fixing the salary of the Governor-General, then certainly so far as Governors are concerned we might as well adopted the figure proposed for the Governors of the State in the Draft Constitution. It is fixed in the Draft Constitution at Rs. 4,500 per month for Governors. (*An Honourable Member*: "What are they getting now?") They are getting Rs. 6,000 and over.

As regards freedom from income-tax the second schedule to the Draft Constitution does not state whether the various salaries mentioned there—not only of the President, and of the Governors but also of the Prime Minister and other Ministers—will be income-tax-free or otherwise. But considering that today the Prime Minister's salary is subject to income-tax I think the same analogy would apply and must hold good in the case of the salary of the Governor-General, and Governors of States. I would like to know whether the higher salaries of the Governors are subject to income-tax or not. If they are subject to income-tax they will be less than the Governor-General's salary. But if a Governor drawing Rs. 6,000 does not pay income-tax, it will lead to the unfortunate anomaly of the Governor drawing a higher salary than the Governor-General. I do not mean of course that the dignity of the Governor-General would thereby suffer, because my conception of dignity is quite different.

There is another point in this connection. The Secretary of a Minister draws Rs. 4,000 and there are other officers drawing more than Rs. 4,000 who are subordinate to the Minister, who draws only Rs. 3,000 *plus* 500 sumptuary. Does that mean that the officer who draws 4,000 is higher in position and status than the Minister who draws only Rs. 3,000? As I have said, our Indian tradition, our culture, our genius, our philosophy are entirely different. Swami Vivekananda when he went to America, when he was penurious and

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languishing in the streets, when he was almost starving to death, he was hailed as the most dignified representative of the Indian nation in the Parliament of Religions. Gandhiji when he went to England as the sole representative of India at the Round Table Conference, in his bhikshu's costume was acclaimed as the most dignified and revered representative at the Round Table Conference. Swami Dayananda Saraswati in our own country used to go about in the *kaupeena* and he was looked upon as one of the greatest personalities in the country. I therefore say that we must adhere to such a conception of dignity as is not regulated by the salary that an officer or dignitary draws.

It may be argued by some that the Members of this Assembly too should not draw such high allowances. Sir, I am in entire agreement with this view. In the event of its being decided that the Members of this House should draw a salary, the allowances must be reduced considerably, because it has been felt since we became a free country that Members of this House too as in Parliaments of all free countries of the world, must be given regular salaries. A good number of them have to maintain perhaps two establishments—one here and the other at home. (*An Honourable Member*: "Not all!") Not all of course,—and therefore it is necessary and desirable that Members too should be paid a regular, though not a high, salary, because dignity is not regulated by that consideration. They may be paid Rs. 600 or 700 and a nominal allowance of Rs. 10 or 15. That would be fair and to the satisfaction of all. Today there is a controversy and every time we see somebody writing in the papers that an M.C.A. draws an allowance of Rs. 45 and an unfortunate impression is conveyed. They forget that the Members draw it only for three or four months and the rest of the time when they do work in the constituencies they get nothing.

I would only refer to one more matter that has been mentioned in this Bill. In Clause 2 of the Bill which seeks to exempt the reduced salary of the Governor-General from Income-tax there are a few words in brackets, namely:

"in respect of the salary due to him (whether paid or not)"

and it is repeated in the end:

"and the salary so due (whether paid or not) shall not be included in his total income."

I suppose it is the usual legal phraseology. But I would like to know whether by this is meant that it is possible the Governor-General may not draw the salary. Because, it will be certainly completely in consonance with the traditions of the Gandhian philosophy which has again been the outcome of the highest Indian philosophy that even if the salary is sanctioned to the Governor-General he may elect not to draw it at all. Does it mean that or is it mere legal parlance?

I will only end by saying that the dignity of the head of the state must be maintained by all means and in all ways, but certainly not by these adventitious aids. I do not know whether we subscribe to the philosophy of the sophisticated cynic's maxim.

Sarve gunah kánchanamáshrayanti

I do not know whether that philosophy is applicable to us today. I do not personally accept that. That was the saying of a cynic, a satirist perhaps.

I have no doubt the honourable Home Minister who has guided and led us along the path of suffering and sacrifice during the last thirty years and more does not accept such a view of money as being conducive to or as a necessary adjunct of the dignity of an individual. It is high time we bade goodbye to such notions of dignity. Our philosophy, I am sure, supports the other ancient precept:

Keyurani na bhushayanti purusham hara na chandrajwala

na snanam na vilepanam na kusumam na lankrita murdhaja

Vanyeka samalankaroti purusham ya samskrita dharyate

Kshiyante khalu bhushanni satatam vagbhusham bhusham

All these *bhushanas* or decorations of salary etc. will wither away but the varieties of the mind and spirit persist, and they are eternal. I hope that we in Free India will measure the dignity of our leaders, our Governor-General and ourselves, not by the money we possess, not by the salaries we draw, not by the allowanoes that are sanctioned to us but by the higher principles and ideals that have animated our *Rishis* and sages in the past, for which India has stood through the ages, and which India will preach to the world in the present and in the future.

Sir, I support the Bill.

Prof. K. T. Shah (Bihar: General): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with some misgivinge to oppose this Bill. I am afraid that there is a chance of being misunderstood when one raises one's voice in protest against proposals like the one now before this House. I hope it is unnecessary to make it clear that there is no trace of personal equation or feeling involved in this case. If, as I do, I oppose this Bill, it is exclusively on the ground of principle, which I think ought to be held sacred, ought never to be taken any exception to.

The three points of principle which I think are involved in this matter may be briefly stated as firstly the actual figure of the salary and its co-relation with the dignity of the state, the principle, secondly, of exempting it from Income-tax, and, thirdly, for not counting that income in the total taxable income derived from other sources by the Governor-General.

As regards the first I realise that the ideal of voluntary, free, gratuitous public service is dying out; and those of us who render such service—whatever satisfaction they may get in their own conscience—are only regarded as fools by those who do not appreciate, or cannot believe that people can for years render selfless honorary public service, doing the greatest labour of their lives. It is a great credit to the English people in their history that the bulk of the Government, until quite recent times, was conducted by honorary public servants, the so-called Justices of the Peace, who administered almost all the items of local government in that country from the fourteenth till the nineteenth century. Even those who came to govern the country from the capital, were until about forty years ago,—Members of Parliament, I mean,—were not paid: Their services were honorary, and they were not regarded as less dignified and important members of the community than those who received salaries from the public purse.

Even in more matter of fact or materialistic countries, like the United States, that ideal has remained, even in the present days, of rendering whatever service one can to the country which provided all the opportunities for leading a happy life, and the ideal is not dead. It is well known, for instance, that President Hoover, though he accepted the salary while he was in office for four years, on the first day of his retirement refunded to the public exchequer 800,000 dollars which he had received as salary while acting as President. The

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principle was that while he was an office-holder he received the salary, if only to show that he was amenable to public discipline and the rules of conduct imposed upon public servants of that eminence; and that, therefore, while occupying the post he received, the amount of salary, but took it, as it were, in trust, and refunded it when he ceased to be an office-holder, regarding the opportunity of service that he had during that period as his great and only reward.

There have been others too, and in a still more materialistic age, who do not consider the amount of salary they derive from public purse as their measure of dignity, or as their return for the services rendered.

We are living in a mercenary age; but even in this age there are people who regard the opportunity of serving one's fellow-men as by itself sufficient return, and not think their dignity compromised or affected because they happen to receive a salary not commensurate with the post they occupy. Mr. Kamath has given illustrations even in this country of officers drawing much higher salaries than their superiors, the Ministers. That, I am quite certain, does not in any way affect the dignity or position of the Ministers *vis-a-vis* their subordinates, the Secretaries, or others who may be drawing much higher salaries.

Salary is really, after a certain limit, no indication either of the quantity of the labour rendered or the quality of the work done, or the importance or dignity of the person holding a post, or of the post occupied. What it would amount to is just a recognition of the other principle that the labourer is worthy of his hire. In cases like this I think it is also a measure to see that the person concerned is liable to all those rules of service, of decorum and decency, which posts of that character convey. All through the war, for instance, I mean the last war, there were many—some of them the most important—public servants in the United States or in Britain, who rendered the highest service wholly free of charge, and were in fact known as "a-dollar-a-year-man". That is to say they received one dollar for all their services for one year. Lord Halifax, for instance, a previous Governor-General and Viceroy of this country, acted all through the War as Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the United States, taking not a penny in salary. His Private income may be anything, but it does not affect his taking a salary from the State. The point remains that there have been others on the other hand who have taken a salary in addition to whatever income they have. We have no dearth of people who, notwithstanding having crores upon crores, have no hesitation, not only in taking salary, but in defrauding the State of their income-tax and other receipts so that the size of the private income is no indication of the man's moral stature, or his outlook upon how to defraud the public instead of how to serve the public.

That, therefore, Sir, is no answer to the point I was making that the particular individual received or not received a salary because he has very high private income. To my mind the very existence of high private income is an offence against society. There should be no high private incomes, and there should be no room for such invidious discrimination as is made on the ground of the possession of the private income. The possession of private income is not an insurance against public rectitude; and therefore that, I hope, will not be an argument which will be used again.

A point that ought to be noticed in this connection is the relation between the salary of the head of the State, for instance, and the income of the average citizen. The average income in this country, even in these days of high

prices, cannot be more than Rs. 10 or 15 per month. It used to be much lower, it is perhaps three or four times as much today. But even so I think it cannot exceed Rs. 14 or 15 per month. If the figures that Mr. Kamath gave the House just now, as some cynic or some critic having worked it out, suggested that this salary of the Governor-General if liable to income-tax would amount to Rs. 14,000 or 15,000 per month. Hence, Sir, that disparity between the income of the average citizen of Rs. 15 per month and the Governor-General's salary of Rs. 15,000 per month, is so vast that in any State claiming to have a society based on democracy, a society of equals, must call for adverse comments. I repeat that I do not believe in large private incomes of any kind. But I still less like this wide disparity between the average income of individuals in a given society, and the official income of the head of that society. For it induces a certain wide difference in outlook in the actual life led by those parties, so that those who receive such high salaries or large incomes live in a world entirely different from the world of their fellows. It was one of the complaints that we used to make against the foreign rulers in this country, that the average salary drawn by the foreign officials in those days was far in excess, and out of all proportion to the average income of an average citizen in India. The Governor-General, under the new Constitution does not cease to be a citizen. And hence this wide gulf between the average income of the individual in this country and the income allotted under this Bill to the Governor-General is to my mind a blemish in the society of equals that we propose to found under the new Constitution.

This brings me to my second principle, namely the objection to the exemption from income-tax which under this Bill is given to the Governor-General. It has been pointed out that the exemption to the Governor-General will amount to a difference almost twice as much in the salary had it been subject to the income-tax. To that extent it may be regarded as a loss or gain to the State according as you look upon this matter. But there is this point to be considered that whether Governor-General or President under the new Constitution as he would be called, he does not cease to be a citizen. And the invidious discrimination that is proposed in this Bill between the salary of one individual who happens to be the Governor-General for the time being, and of all the other citizens who have incomes within taxable limits, this invidious discrimination will be a blemish which we ought not to countenance. There are other heads of the State too in other parts of the world. The illustrations which my friend Mr. Kamath gave may not be very happy in this atmosphere wherein, after all, the size of income is some indication of the respect in which one's fellow-citizen is held.....

Shri H. V. Kamath: Is that a justification?

Prof. K. T. Shah: I am only speaking in terms of the atmosphere in which those illustrations were given, or the background. But that is not to say that I do not agree to those illustrations being quite opposite.

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is all right.

Prof. K. T. Shah: All I am saying is that they may not be palatable or acceptable or quite agreeable in those conditions to which I referred just now. But there are other considerations. There are more respectable heads of States—by respectable I mean of course as commonly understood—who do not enjoy the exemption of the kind which is now proposed to be given here. The President of the United States, if my memory does not fail me, now suffers from the present income-tax to such an extent that his official salary or his real income comes to perhaps one-third of the salary which he is nominally supposed to receive. From 75,000 dollars he hardly gets 24,000

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dollars in his hand at the prevailing rate of taxes. But so far as I am aware there has been no attempt recently to bring up his income somehow to the higher figure, so that he can remain in the dignity and importance due to the first citizen of the country in the United States of America.

Even the King of England, though his Civil List may not be liable to income-tax, is not claiming any exemption from taxation for his other income from other investments and properties. That ought to be a much more apposite example than the other one I quoted just now, for the simple reason that no one knows what is the exact size of the income of King of England apart from his Civil List,—what he derives from his investments or properties may be known only to his manager or to his broker. It is a fact that he never claims any refund for any kind of taxes that he pays on the ground of the size of income including the Civil List or without it. And that, in spite of the fact that the King of England, while technically at any rate, is not only the Head of the State, but is the fountain source of all power. He is the person in whose name all taxes are levied and collected. Therefore he is the owner and proprietor in a sense in which I trust the Governor-General or the President of India will never be the owner and proprietor of this country, its lands and other things.

That makes it quite evident that a Bill like this has very little of either principle or precedent to commend itself. If the sole desire is that the Governor-General or the Head of the State in India should be enabled to maintain his position and carry on his duties in as much comfort and with as much amenities and facilities as might be necessary, by all means give him all those facilities separately. By all means provide him with accommodation free of charge, with other facilities and entertainment and conveyance allowances if you like, with martial bands and musical concerts, everything free of charge; give him seats free in your opera houses, seats free in your theatres, seats free in your picture palaces; let him go and attend any picture in any place that he wants free of charge. I think it would be right to provide all this from the public purse. But, the salary that you give him cannot be the measure, and must not be presented as a measure of the dignity and importance of the post. Therefore, whatever your other reasons may be for offering this figure, I think we should not correlate it in any way with anything that amounts to the disparity which I have mentioned above between the average income of an individual citizen and that of the Head of the State.

It should not involve the invidious discrimination that this exemption from taxation involves. And it should still further not be a privilege of the kind which is made out in the Bill, that is, exemption also from further taxation by not allowing the salary to be included in the total income, so that the rate may be high. Elsewhere, under the Income-tax law, even if any income is not charged to Income-tax, the amount is nevertheless taken into account so that the rate may be properly fixed. Here, you make a further exception, and that I think is utterly unwarranted.

I put forward these views, Sir, before this House not, as I started by saying, with no desire to suggest anything personal against the highly honoured occupant of the Governor-General's chair today, but only because I think that matters like this should not be allowed to go by mere silent voting, or by even an implication that all those who did not speak, supported or, at any rate, acquiesced in a matter like this. Sir, I oppose the Bill.

Babu Ramnarayan Singh (Bihar: General): Sir, it is after a great controversy in my mind and heart that I have decided to speak.

Sir, I felt that duty to the country must predominate over all considerations. What I am going to speak is not by way of opposition; I know opposition will be merely futile. I only wish to speak by way of an earnest appeal, by way of a respectful reminder to our great leaders, our comrades and to all Congressmen in this country.

In 1931, in the Congress at Karachi,—I remember you also might have been present, our great Sardar was present, I was also present—we decided that the highest salary in this country ought to be Rs. 500/-. Circumstances have changed. The other day the honourable the Finance Minister said that the value of Rs. 500/- in pre-war days is now equal to at least Rs. 2,000/-. I may agree to this. But, considering the situation and the financial conditions of our countrymen, we know that about 90 per cent. of the people of this country do not know what two meals a day are. Excepting the high salaried Government servants, some doctors and lawyers and some businessmen and traders, you will not find in the country one out of a lakh whose income is Rs. 500/- a month. The country is so very poor. The system which is in vogue now, everybody knows, was established by a foreign Government whose only object was to exploit the country, to rob the country. All public servants of the country ought to be maintained by the public, but in accordance with the standard of the common people of the country. In a country where the people are starving, high salaries, I am constrained to say, is rather a disgrace. I wish that all patriotic men ought to be in the service of the country and they must be maintained as I said before; but they must not be rich at the cost of the common people. They must be maintained; that is all. This monthly salary of Rs. 5,500 is already too much. I remind again all our leaders, all our comrades that dignity lies in obedience to our previous commitments and previous announcements and previous statements, and not in violation of them. If the Bill is passed, there will be some gain to His Excellency the Governor-General. But, according to our ancient heritage, dignity lies not in gain, but in sacrifice. Our Sardar, our Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and many of our leaders are great men, certainly great men and we are proud of them. But, they are great not because they have any fortunes, but because they had once kicked all fortunes in the cause of freedom of the country. I shall appeal with all the emphasis at my command to the Sardar, and to all Congress men in this country that our Governmental system must be regulated according to our commitments given to the country at Karachi.

I am not going to say much. I feel some emotion in my heart, but I feel that my duty to the country demands that I should speak and I should appeal and appeal most earnestly that we must remember Karachi Congress, we must remember the salary fixed there and we must not be guided by what has been done by a robber Government in the past.

Mr. Nasiruddin Ahmad (West Bengal: Muslim): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very delicate subject. I should, however confine myself to clarification of the real point in issue in this Bill. I would like to know what was the net amount received by the Governor-General on the present scale of salary, Rs.2,50,000 per annum *minus* the amount of tax payable on account of this salary. That would depend on his other incomes. I would like to know what would be the net annual amount received by His Excellecy on account of the salary less the income-tax. At present his salary is Rs. 2,50,000 and the present salary proposed is Rs. 66,000. So deducting this from his nominal salary, there is a net nominal saving to the State of Rs. 1,84,000. It would be important for us to know what was the amount of tax

[Mr. Naziruddin Ahmad]

by which this apparent saving would be reduced. In fact to pay any one a salary and to make it free from income-tax would be highly misleading. It would be perfectly straight-forward to give the Governor-General a pay of Rs. 10,000, 14,000 or 15,000 and make it subject to income-tax. There is no point in exempting any salary from income-tax. It would be introducing an anomaly in our income-tax system. I submit, therefore, that the House and the country would be entitled to know what would be the net difference between the present scale of salary with tax and the proposed scale of salary without tax and that would give us a measure of the exact amount of saving made by the State. So far as I understand, the Governor-General agreed to receive a pay of Rs. 5,000 and the proposal for exemption from income-tax, it appears, did not come from him. This proposal has come from the Ministry. But before agreeing to accepting the Bill, it would be proper for us to know what would be the net difference measured in rupees, annas and pies.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Sir, I have heard the criticisms with great attention. While I fully appreciate the desire for fixing the salary of the Governor-General's post at the level which would be appropriate and in consonance with the conditions of our country, I must remind the House that we have in another capacity, meeting in the Constituent Assembly, considered this question and fixed the salary which we have fixed and which I placed before the House today. The consensus of opinion is the guide in these matters. In spite of the desire of some Members to bring down the salary, which they consider would be adequate, and looking to the conditions of our country, in a matter of this nature, I do not think we will be able to fix any amount which will not be open to criticism from any quarter. There can be no complete agreement on this question. I have heard with great interest the examples, quoted by some of the honourable friends, of Hitler or *Sanyasi* or a *Sankaracharya*; it is very interesting indeed; I do not know what property Hitler left when he died or what was his property when he was deposed. Whatever it was, I agree entirely that in this country sacrifice is respected more than riches, but in this country there never have been *sanyasis* as heads of the State. Heads of States have bowed their heads before a *Sanyasi* and therefore, *sanyasis* have got away from the glamour of office or responsibility. Two things are entirely different. Now it has been suggested that it would have been straightforward.....

Shri H. V. Kamath: My point was not about the *Sanyasi* as such, but the relation between dignity and salary, that is all.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I have understood your point and, therefore, I thought that you also understood my point.

Shri H. V. Kamath: I have.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The dignity of the State in the present set-up is a different thing from the dignity which the sacrifice in this country carries with it. Perhaps the House is aware of my own feelings in this matter that if we have to change the whole set-up, which we have inherited only recently, if we have to make a change and to fit in with the ideals which were put in in the Congress Resolution in Karachi or with the oft-quoted ideals which are known as the Gandhian Ideal, then what I would suggest is that we should not live in this place, but go some other place and build a capital which is in consonance with the conditions of our life. If I have to go to the Government House, I must go from one end to the other to find out a room it is such a long and huge thing that the walls of the House frightens me and when I get an invitation to

go there I get shivers because I do not like to look at the place; yet we are not contemplating a change overnight. If I could succeed in persuading my colleagues and the House, I would certainly like to leave this place and go somewhere else, because the whole set-up in such that in spite of our efforts to come down to the level of our conditions, we find it impossible to do so. I would like to go as far as possible to meet with the wishes of even a single individual of this House in fixing the salary of the highest office in our country because that will set a standard and the standard if we have to bring down to the level, will have to be changed all round for that we must go into entirely different surroundings. I agree that it may be possible for some individuals to draw less salary, but looking to the totality of circumstances, placed as we are today, in the set up in which are working, we came to the conclusion after considering all the facts that this salary we think is adequate for the present.

After all, the Governor-General's salary is not a permanent thing. We can reduce it at any time we like. But, in the present conditions and under the present circumstances, we think that this is the proper thing to do. I resent any suggestion that there is anything underhand in saying that the Governor-General's salary shall be free from income-tax. If it was so, it would not have been brought before the House in this manner. The honourable Member can much better calculate the income-tax deductions than any Member in this House and yet he asks, what would be the salary if the income-tax is deducted. He knows it. A member who is very punctilious about commas and semi-colons and other things knows this. But he wants a serious thing to be reduced to a joke. This is a serious matter. To fix the Governor-General's salary is a very heavy responsibility. It is not an individual's case at all. We are not discussing the case of the present inoumbent or anybody. We are discussing what, under the present circumstances, we all think should be the salary and emoluments of the Head of the State at present. Well, we have officers here drawing a certain salary. You know the highest salary an officer draws. You know the salary of a Governor and his allowances. I have had complaints from some of the Governors that the allowances they get are all exhausted and that they are not able to meet the charges for which such allowances are meant. I am telling them that in India few people are able to make up their budgets and that they must try hard to see what they can do in the matter.

In this particular case I wish to say this that we can only fix the salary according to the consensus of opinion in the House, and taking the consensus of opinion in the Constituent Assembly we are fixing the salary of the permanent incumbent.....

Shri H. V. Kamath: That has not been fixed as yet.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The honourable Member was absent on that day. I am referring to Draft Constitution.

Shri H. V. Kamath: The Schedule has not been adopted.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: The honourable Member may take it from me that that Schedule is going to be adopted.

Shri H. V. Kamath: That is a different matter.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: Therefore, as I was saying, the consensus of opinion is in favour of the proposals made. Of course individuals may differ. But I may say this: Nobody, not even the present incumbent would like to draw more. We have often quoted Gandhiji's ideal in this respect. Our Governor-General knows as much as anybody else what he should do.

[Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel]

I do not wish to prolong this debate. I appeal to the House to accept the proposal that has been made in this Bill by the Government.

Shri H. V. Kamath: May I know whether the Governors' salaries are tax-free?

Mr. Speaker: The honourable Member will find it in the Schedule.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for exempting the reduced salary of the Governor-General from taxes on income, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: I find that there are no amendments. So I shall put the clauses one by one.

The question is:

"That clauses 1 to 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: Though it is time for us to adjourn for Lunch, we will dispose of the other Bill also before we adjourn.

CRIMINAL LAW (REMOVAL OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATIONS) BILL

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (Minister of Home Affairs and the States): I move:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal of certain existing discriminations in favour of Europeans and Americans in the criminal law of the Provinces of India, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this also is a non-controversial measure. The House is aware of the past history of these provisions in our criminal law. These were distinct and permanent proofs of our subjection to foreign rule. Now that the country is free these proofs of racial discrimination against which there has been a good deal of agitation and resentment must disappear from the Statute Book.

The House is aware that a Bill of this nature was brought forward by a non-official Member of this House. Its scope was restricted to the Criminal law only. On that occasion I had promised this wider measure to remove racial discrimination from all existing laws. This Bill seeks to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, the Indian Extradition Act and the Limitation Act, all of which contain discriminatory provisions. We seek to omit 'penal servitude', because we feel that there is no reason why Europeans and

Americans should have a different treatment from that of children of the soil. Before the law everybody must be equal without distinction of caste, creed or religion or anything of the kind. All people are equal before law and the court of law. And all laws must be equally applicable to all. The law is no respector of persons. Therefore I move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the removal of certain existing racial discriminations in favour of Europeans and Americans in the criminal law of the Provinces of India, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Speaker: As there are no amendments I shall put all the clause 1 to 7 together.

The question is:

"That clauses 1 to 7 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 7 were added to the Bill.

The Title and the Preamble were added to the Bill.

The Honourable Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel: I move:.

"That the Bill be passed."

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. Speaker (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

MOTION *RE* REPORT OF INDIAN RAILWAY ENQUIRY COMMITTEE

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Minister of Railways and Transport): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Report of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee be taken into consideration."

In doing so, I propose to give myself only a few minutes by way of introducing this subject to the House. Originally, it was intended that the whole of today with the exception of the Question Hour would be available for discussion of this Report, but, as matters have developed, we have only this afternoon to deal with this matter. The Report is a fairly sumptuous document. It does not make, if I may say so, any startling pronouncements, nor does it make any very revolutionary recommendations. It is the result of patient and painstaking investigation of facts with regard to the working of Railways.

As honourable Members will have noticed, the terms of reference to this Committee were rather of a very wide and very indefinite character. They seemed to concentrate on asking the Committee to make proposals for improving the net earnings of Railways, and economies and improvements in efficiency were contemplated only with a view to produce this result, namely,

[Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar]

improvement of the net earnings of Railways. Of economies of a concerete character which might be translated by Government immediately into practice, you will probably not find much recommended in the course of this Report. But the Committee has brought out a number of points and made a series of recommendations which, if worked out in concrete detail and implemented in practice, might produce economies in expenditure, what is more, greater efficiency in operation and thus tend to the result of increasing the net earnings of Railways.

Well, Sir, I wish to repeat at the outset of my remarks my acknowledgement of the services rendered by this Committee in undertaking this investigation. The Committe was presided over by my honourable friend Pandit Kunzru and, if I may say so, the whole tenor, the temper and even in some cases the language of this Report bear the impress of his personality. Let me add, that I am particularly anxious to acknowledge this, because of one fact, that he learnt the art of dealing with public affairs of this description at the feet of a master of satistical analysis and economic judgement who made a great name in the India of his day. There are many things which in my life have happened not exactly in accordance with my wishes, but one of my major regrets is that when forty five years ago an opportunity presented itself to me of learning at the feet of the same master, a number of circumstances conspired to deny me the advantage of accepting that invitation. That is one of my major regrets, I see the characteristics of what he laid down for himself in the investigation of public affairs are writ large in this report. There is a certain restraint and a sense of responsibility in the contents of this report. There is, if I may say so, an anxiety to acknowledge good work done, even efforts made at improvement, attempts made to conquer odds and obstacles in the way. There is also the tendency to state things clearly, emphatically and firmly where the concensus of acts compel such statement either of a judgement or of an opinion or the making of a recommendation. We see it all through this Report.

Now, in judging or in trying to study this Report, we have got to take all this into consideration. I want to tell the House at once that today the House is not engaged in trying to pick holes in the administration of any particular Ministry. It is rather engaged in the more serious study of the problems relating to Railway administrations in general, the facts relating to that Administration, not with reference to any particular Ministry, but with reference to the Administration as a whole, and what is necessary for Improving that Administration and bringing it up to a standard which would stand comparison with Railway administrations in the rest of the world. That, I take it, will be the chief objective which the debate that will follow will have before it.

Now, Sir, it would be difficult for me, and I do not think the House will expect me, to take it through the whole of this Report in anything like detail. This Report is based upon facts which were ascertained during the years 1946 and 1947 and part of 1948 and it so happened that, as I presented the Railway Budget some time ago, I brought certain of the facts up to date and gave the House an account of what had happened during practically the first ten or eleven months of 1948-49.

I do not wish to repeat anything that I said in the course of my budget speech. Honourable Members would have noticed that that speech was not to a small extent influenced by several of the recommendations which are contained in this report.

There might be a temptation again for honourable Members of the House to get back to the usual topics which they speak on during any debate on the Railways; the class III passengers, the classification of accommodation, corruption, railway priorities, and the like. But I hope today honourable Members will concentrate on some of the more important problems, such as the financial position of the Railways, the question of the regrouping of Railways in the country, the question of what would be the proper central set-up for running this railway administration at an efficient level, and things of that kind.

With regard to some of these points, I have already indicated the views of Government. In the first place, I have said that the question of regrouping of Railways and the reorganization of the central set-up are problems which bristle with difficulties, require some very careful study before Government can arrive at conclusion, and that study is going on and I am looking forward to this debate for some honourable Members to throw out bright ideas which I shall be able to adopt and implement in the course of that study and before I reach final conclusions.

Now the main recommendations of the Committee have been summed up under 175 heads, as honourable Members would have noticed. Some of these so-called recommendations are only mere conclusions or findings. A certain number of others are matters on which individual railway administrations have to take action and they have all been remitted to railway administrations for taking such action, and in order to see that that action is taken promptly, we have called for a consolidated report from each railway administration to be submitted to the Railway Board somewhere about the beginning of July next. But we have not stopped there. We have also had before us the necessity of securing both promptitute and uniformity in the action that individual railway administrations should take in respect of these matters and recently orders have been issued that when action is taken by a railway administration it should immediately be communicated to the Railway Board so that the Railway Board may be in a position to judge for itself whether that action is correct or that that action is one which could be followed on every other railway, and whether it is necessary to require a particular administration to modify or readjust the action that it has taken.

Apart from these two categories, there are about 97 of the items involving 132 individual recommendations which have to be dealt with by the Railway Board itself and the Government. Of these, the House will be interested to learn that 54 have been already under the consideration of the Railway Board and the Government, and orders have been passed in a number of those cases. About 38 have reached a stage when they could be submitted for orders and these orders will be passed in the course of the next few days. There will be about 78 remaining which will have to be examined and put up for consideration by the Government. The procedure that we have followed in this connection is that we have an officer on special duty in the Railway Board for the purpose of dealing with this report. He is exclusively confined to this work. It is his business to see that every one of these recommendations is examined in the proper way and is submitted for the orders of Government. Now our idea is that we place these orders in batches at the disposal of the public and Government, and I welcome this early opportunity of the House meeting for the purpose of considering some of these recommendations, so that we may have the benefit of such views as honourable Members may give expression to.

[Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar]

There is one chapter in the report—Chapter 2 I believe—which sums up the results of the working of Railways in this country. It gives a list of the items in respect of which there has been demonstrable deterioration. It has also listed a few items where there has been some improvement. Now in appraising the value to be attached to this particular chapter, I would ask honourable Members to remember that these comparisons are based upon facts which cover practically the whole of the period covered by the war, the partition, and the after-math of the partition. I do not think the Committee intended, and I do not want the House to get away with the idea, that this gives us any final picture of what our Railways are like even at the present moment. Since these things were said in the report there has been improvement in several particulars and I should also like the House to remember that India is by no means alone in regard to the deterioration which you notice in the working of Railways.

Take one point: the question about the operation ratio which is not I believe specifically referred to in that particular chapter. I have had a few figures collected about how our own operation ratio compares with the operation ratio of the Railways in several other countries. I have here a statement which shows that in the year 1947-48 the operation ratio for Indian Railways was 76·2. If we included depreciation it was 82·50.

Compare it with Railways in other countries. The following are the ratios relating to some of the countries:

The Canadian National Railways.	90·63
The South African Railways	76·06
Western Australia Railways	109·84
South Australian Railways	107

There are other figures also. On the Canadian Pacific Railway, which I believe is a company-managed railway, the ratio is 87·38. On the U. S. A. Railways, Class I, the ratio is 78·27. If you compare these figures in a broad way there is nothing in respect of which we need feel particularly disappointed.

With regard to other matters also, such as over-crowding, arrears of repairs or renewals, a phenomenal increase in gross earnings and expenses, difficulties in importing capital goods for rehabilitation, difficulties experienced with regard to foreign exchange for these purposes—these are all factors which I find are very common all over the world and not peculiar to India. In fact, improvement and rehabilitation in other countries also are going on at a slow pace and in some cases at a much slower pace than we are going at, because of these factors which are prevalent all over the world.

With regard to power, our locomotives, our coaches, our wagons, I think you have already heard the story of what we have been doing in recent months for the purpose of bringing them to a condition which we might congratulate ourselves on. On the question of locomotives I have already given you a full account. In regard to coaches we are contemplating the establishment of a coach-building factory in the country. In regard to wagons we are trying to step up production in the country. We have been somewhat handicapped in the matter of getting steel but we have taken steps for the purpose of stepping up the allocation of steel for railway purposes and so on.

On the financial side I must admit two facts. One is that as between one railway administration and another there are discrepancies or differences which cannot all be explained away by any reasons peculier to particular railways. It is my intention that these differences should be investigated in detail, so that we bring practically every railway administration to the level of the most efficient of all the railway administrations.

In the second place, I do think with the Committee that railway administrations do not get that amount of financial advice in regard to schemes, in regard to control of expenditure, even in regard to audit, that they must expect and as a result we have conditions which require a certain amount of thorough overhauling. This also, I think, will be undertaken in the course of the coming year.

Sir, I have already taken about 25 minutes. I think I am stealing more time from honourable Members than I ought to on this occasion. I think I shall leave matters here, so that, if honourable Members bring out any points on which a reply from me is necessary you will, Sir, I hope, give me an opportunity for a few minutes to reply to them.

Mr. Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Report of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee be taken into consideration."

I am reserving about half an hour for the honourable Minister's reply.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Honourable Members might object to that. 15 minutes would do for me.

Mr. Frank Anthony (C. P. and Berar: General): May I know, Sir, how many minutes you propose to allow me?

Mr. Speaker: My idea is to allow 15 minutes.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Sir, it must have been impossible for any Member in this House to have studied this report with the care and attention that it deserves. Personally I feel that the appreciation that has been expressed by the honourable Minister of the members of the Committee was certainly due to them. It is axiomatic to say that the subject is a vast one and this report is a heavy volume. I have no doubt that a great deal of care, thought, energy, time and endeavour of the members, particularly of the Chairman, must have gone into the bringing out of this report.

However perfect the report may be, whatever the amount of care that may have been bestowed on it, it is inevitable, human nature being what it is, that it must be fallible in certain respects and I propose to deal with what I consider to be certain lacuna and certain recommendations which I think are not acceptable. I propose further to deal only with recommendations in Chapter 10 dealing with staff.

I feel that the most serious defect with regard to these recommendations is the recommendation with regard to staff. The Committee finds that the rules regarding discipline and appeal are satisfactory and require no change or modification. Quite frankly, I cannot understand how the Committee has arrived at this recommendation. It is axiomatic that in this House from the time of stalwarts like Mr. N. M. Joshi, a hardy annual has been the sustained criticism against what all labour leaders and those associated with railway labour have regarded as obsolete and illusory provisions relating to labour contained in the Discipline and Appeal Rules of the State Railway Establishment Code. I propose to deal only with those rules in so far as they affect the non-gazetted staff.

[Mr. Frank Anthony]

I feel that one of the main reasons for the increasing dissatisfaction among the non-gazetted staff is the perpetuation of these rules relating to discipline and appeal. I have dealt liberally with hundreds of cases of appeal—perhaps the number runs into thousands—and what I am saying I say from an inside knowledge of how these rules with regard to discipline and appeal are applied and usually applied. Further as a lawyer, quite often I have stood aghast at the way in which these rules are applied, involving a repudiation of what I consider are elementary principles of justice and fairplay.

To begin with there is no absolute right of a departmental enquiry. If you will refer to rule 1707 of the Establishment Code you will find that even where the charge involves the penalty of dismissal there is no absolute right to a departmental enquiry. The person concerned has to ask that he should be heard in person. And I know of cases where railway-men, because of their ignorance of the technical character of this rule, have not asked to be heard in person. If they do not ask to be heard in person then the rule gives the discretion to the officer dealing with the case not to hold a departmental enquiry, which means that if a railway-man is ignorant and does not satisfy the technical requirements of this particular rule and does not specifically ask that he should be heard in person, he can be dismissed from service without a departmental enquiry. I feel that in all cases where a man is charged with dereliction of duty involving dismissal, he should have an absolute right to a departmental enquiry, whether he asks to be heard in person or not. You should certainly not leave this, what I regard to be an inalienable right, within the discretion of the officer concerned. Further, I think that in all cases where dismissal is involved not only should there be an absolute right to a departmental enquiry but there should be a right to be represented by a lawyer. I do not know what the position is with regard to other departments. But I feel that it is not sufficient to give, as is given in the present Establishment Code, a right to be accompanied by a kind of *amicus curiae*, a friend of the accused. What happens? Either the railway-man represents himself, utterly ignorant of the elementary procedure required to defend himself or he is accompanied by a friend who occupies the same subordinate position that he does and that friend cannot do justice to him. The friend is afraid to bring out facts which may be of vital help to the person concerned because it may involve a certain rigorous cross-examination of some superior officers. Sir, in this respect I feel that it would be salutary, if this rule is immediately amended so as to give him in all cases where the person concerned has been presented with a charge involving dismissal, the absolute right to a departmental enquiry and also give him the right to be represented, if he so wishes by a lawyer.

3 P.M.

I now come to another provision in the Rules, relating to non-gazetted staff, which is bitterly resented. For many years I have spoken in caustic terms against this provision. It is the provision contained in Rule 1708—Removal from Service. This provision gives the Railways a much wider right to remove a man from service and on more extended grounds than the right to dismiss a railway employee. For instance under this rule a man may be removed for inefficiency, he can be removed for repeated minor offences and several other things. It has been my grim, bitter and unfortunate experience to know of cases over and over again, where this rule has not only been invoked but flagrantly abused. The Railways must have something to justify dismissal. Further, dismissal can be challenged in a court of law. Removal cannot be challenged in a court of law because it forms part of the contract of every railway employee. With the result I have found it—I am sorry to say—being resorted to as a cowardly, dishonest device. If the Railways do not like a person, though they have nothing really against him, they remove him. That

is not all. This provision gives the right to remove without assigning any reason. To my mind it is something monstrous. I know of cases—I have dealt with them—of men who have worked for twenty, twentyfive and thirty years. They have not only been removed but removed without the Railways giving a single reason for their removal. It is an utterly dishonest device. I do not believe that even during the days of the Spanish Inquisition such sweeping and dictatorial powers were given to anybody.

One even worse feature is this. Not only can a railwayman be removed without any reason being assigned, but he is removed without any kind of enquiry. While with regard to a charge which invokes dismissal he has, not an absolute right to departmental enquiry but a very substantial right, with regard to removal there is no right to a departmental enquiry. If he has had less than seven years service he has absolutely no question of a right to a departmental enquiry before his removal. If he has put in more than seven years service then the matter is left entirely to the discretion of the officer concerned. I am sorry to say that the railway officers have been nurtured in unfortunate traditions of incompetence, of laziness and sheer dictatorial complexes with the result that this discretion has been used by them to ensure that they will not have a departmental enquiry. The result is that men, as I said, who have put in twentyfive years of good service are removed without a departmental enquiry, without any reason at all being given to them by the Railways for their removal.

With regard to this particular chapter I have one word more to say. There is this right of appeal given to persons who are punished. But there is a provision—it is in rule 1720—that all appeals must be submitted through the officer who has punished the person concerned. I am the last person to suggest anything which will even remotely undermine discipline or official prestige. But this rule has been abused, and abused to the detriment of persons who have been punished. This rule not only requires that the appeal should be submitted through the person who has imposed the punishment but it further requires that that officer need not submit the appeal if the language is either in a disrespectful or improper form. With what result? It is inevitable that most appellants will question the impartiality of the officer who has punished them. The officer who has punished them, as soon as he receives an appeal which challenges his impartiality and which suggests that he is unfair, stigmatizes it as improper in language and disrespectful and sits on the appeal with the result that the procedure for appeal becomes illusory. These, I feel, are the most serious defects in this chapter relating to staff.

I now come to what I consider to be another serious defect. At page 159 of the Report the Committee has recommended that there should be qualifying examinations or tests for each category of staff. I want to make it abundantly clear that I am all in favour of the most rigorous tests being applied before persons are promoted from one category to another. But what I wish to underline here is this unfortunate fetish for paper qualifications and written tests. It may be my own personal opinion, but I feel that the increasing inefficiency, particularly in the lower cadres of the Railway Department, is due largely to this increasing emphasis on paper examinations and paper tests. Today, I find the Railways are gradually stepping up the paper qualifications required from persons whom they want to recruit as firemen and even as *Khalasis*. If this tendency is persisted in I can see a time when, because of the increasing persistence on first class Matriculation certificates and even on first or second class Degrees, your firemen and guards and drivers instead of being people who are capable of doing hard physical jobs well and efficiently, will be bespectacled, round-shouldered, pigeon chested, desk-bound youths. Make up your mind as to what you want. I know that on the Railways today have Graduate guards and most of the Guards are third class Graduates who have failed in their attempt to secure employment in every other avenue of

[Mr. Frank Anthony]

life: in desperation and as a last resort they become guards on the railway. They regard the job of a Guard as something derogatory. They look down on the job and they look down on everyone else who has not got a degree. They look down on the public. This tendency is being increasingly emphasized. I would ask the Minister for Railways to go into this matter carefully. Do not sacrifice efficiency, particularly in the lower rungs, and capacity to do a good job of work with practical ability—do not sacrifice all these at the alter of this fetish for paper examinations.

There are two other matters which I shall deal with very briefly. The Committee has also recommended that merit-*cum*-seniority should be the guide to promotion to Class III selection posts. Sir, I strongly differ from this recommendation. I want the honourable Minister to understand the reasons for my opposition. I am not asking him for one moment to dilute the standards of efficiency in the Railway administration; my own feeling is that they have been more than sufficiently diluted. In principle, this basis of merit-*cum*-selection sounds very well, but what is actually happening? I am not over stating the case when I say that this system has already been widely abused. it is being increasingly abused, it is corroding and destroying the morale of the Railway Administration from top to bottom. The other day a senior Bengali Railway official came to see me and he complained bitterly. He said two years ago the B.N.R. represented the finest Railway in India; *camaraderie* and brotherhood existed between all the officials. Today, in place of that he complained—he as a Bengali complained—Bengali-isation of the service in the B.N.R. seems to have become the guiding motive. All non-Bengalis are being made to feel that they have no place in the Bengal-Nagpur Railway service. They feel that the old trust, *camaraderie* and *esprit de corps*, all these today are being increasingly substituted by mistrust: people carrying tale one against the other: back-biting and other tendencies are creeping in which are helping to relax this particular Railway Administration. My own feeling is that these various characteristics are supervening in all the other, what were formerly, Railway Companies.

Sir, under these circumstances, I feel that it would be fatal to extend a principle which is good as a principle but which unfortunately is being so grossly abused in practice. Today selection on the Railways is a weapon for flagrant nepotism and favouritism. I have repeatedly asked that we revert to the old system of seniority*cum*-selection. What can be the objection to this old system? After all, we judge things not by the slogans or the idealism that they involve, we judge them by the results they produce. Under the old system of seniority-*cum*-selection, the Railways attained a standard of efficiency which it might take us a whole generation to recapture. Today, under the so-called system of merit-*cum*-selection not only is the morale of the administration being destroyed but also of the men. Take a ballot—I am prepared to stake my position in the Legislature on it—take a ballot from the railwaymen and I am quite certain that 90 per cent of them will unhesitatingly vote to this effect that selection today has become a ramp and because it has become a ramp it is destroying all sense of morale and all sense of duty which the men at one time throughout the Railways were proud to possess.

Sir, I have one last word to say about the Class II officer. I feel that this Report has done him a very grave and serious injustice. And what distresses me very much is that this Report should quote the opinion of the Railway Board, and that opinion distresses me beyond words. That opinion has been expressed in these words: that a Class II man can rarely exhibit the qualities necessary to place him in Class I, that he has not the initiative and the freshness of outlook of a Class I officer. Sir, this is Brahminism *par excellence*. It is unfortunate that the Class I officer today should display this kind of caste

complex. He feels that he is the Brahmin or the Maha-Brahmin of the Railway service. He feels that by allowing the *Achut* or untouchable of the Railway service—the subordinate who has worked his way up—to rub shoulders with him on an equal status will pollute him. That is the only reason why a recommendation of this sort could have been made, why the unfortunate language that has been adopted should have been subscribed to by this Committee. Sir, I do not know whether the Railway Minister has sufficient experience to endorse it, but I consider, without qualification, that your Class II men represent the lynch-pin of your Railway administration. Today, with your *chokras* and your beardless youths getting accelerated promotion, distinguished by qualities of arrogance on the one hand and inexperience on the other, unable to command the respect of your Class III and Class IV men, it is your class II men who keep your Railways going, and this kind of language is not the kind of language that I expect the Railway Board to use with regard to them. Sir, I feel that by not only accepting the perpetuation of the Class II service but by agreeing to extend it to all the services, you have done a great disservice. You have struck a serious blow at the continuing strength and morale of the Railway Administration. I would ask the Railway Minister seriously to reconsider this matter. Either that, or let your Class II men retire prematurely and you will find the answer that they will give you to this kind of treatment that you are seeking to mete out to them.

Shri Khandubhai K. Desai (Bombay: General): Sir, I will keep in mind what the honourable Minister has said, that while discussing this Report we should not once again repeat the arguments we made in the last Railway Budget debate.

The Kunzru Committee's Report is certainly a thorough-going and complete Report. As far as statistics are concerned, as far as facts are concerned, I must admit that it places before the country the full background in order to come to definite conclusions. However, when we come to consider the recommendations made and the conclusions which they have arrived at, I cannot say the same thing. The recommendations, in my opinion, are halting and to certain extent disappointing. The Committee does not want the Railway Administration to take immediate steps with a view to improve the Administration. The overall impression left on my mind after going through the Report very carefully is that as far as the present railway operational working is concerned, the Committee is entirely dissatisfied with its financial structure. It has no good word to say about its operation, about its performances; there is no economy; the purchase of stores also requires overhauling, the production has fallen and indiscipline and loss of production are found throughout in all the workshops. This is not the record about which any body can take pride. It is a criticism against the present Railway Board.

With such disappointing findings to which they have come to, the recommendations which they have made are, in my opinion, very halting, very conservative, and, if I may say so, they have been made more or less in a hesitant mood. I quite appreciate the hesitant mood because they have to deal with the capital structure of the Railways which runs into nearly Rs. 700 crores, and with the new projects that the Railway Administration have placed before us it will be easily in the neighbourhood of Rs. 900 crores within the next year or two. I may place before this House the fact that the total investments in our Railways more or less even exceeds the total investments in most of the major industries in the country like textiles, jute, coal or any other industries. So the total Railway investments are more than the investment in all the industries put together.

[At this stage Mr. Speaker vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (one of the Panel of Chairmen)].

[Shri Khandubhai K. Desai]

It certainly requires superhuman energy, superhuman intelligence and superhuman initiative to manage the finances running into nearly 700 crores of Rupees. I feel, Sir, that the present Railway Board is not superhuman. It may have served its purpose for the last 20 or 25 years since it has been brought into existence after the Government have begun taking over the Railways one after another. But, now, a stage has come when, in my opinion, no Railway Board would be humanly able to manage such a large and country-wide railway administration as a centralised institution. The Committee has recommended that a railway authority with central powers should be instituted at the Centre. I totally differ from that view. I personally feel that if we want our Railways to work with efficiency, with competence, and with a view to giving convenience to our people, we should go towards decentralisation. Regrouping of Railways should not be delayed. We have got today about 26,000 route miles of Railways both broad gauge and metre gauge. About 10,000 additional route mileage will come to the Government for administration from the States, if not today, in the near future. Therefore, at this stage, the Government has to consider how to administer and manage about 36,000 miles of railways. I think time has now come when, instead of waiting for five years as the Committee has suggested, immediate steps should be taken to re-group the Railways on a zonal basis. A railway line running a distance of 600 or 900 miles is hardly in my opinion a unit which could be managed efficiently. All the railway lines that may come under a definite square area in a particularized zone, whether it is a broad gauge or metre gauge should be managed by one zonal authority. This zonal administration should as far as possible be autonomous. The Railway Ministry at the top should only be a policy making Ministry and a co-ordinating Ministry with such powers of superintendence as is necessary. The Railway Ministry at the top should be assisted not by a Railway Board, but by a technical organisation so that it may be guided properly. Otherwise, normally, our Railways should be managed, as I said by five or six zonal authorities completely autonomous. The present inefficiency, indiscipline or loss in production in my humble opinion is due to this system of top administration, which even though it has the desire to do so, is not capable of permeating to the lowest unit and delivering goods to the country.

Sir, I have got another suggestion to make. Our Workshop organisation should be made entirely separate. All the workshops in our country, whether manufacturing locomotives, or manufacturing coaches or carriages or wagons should be under one organisation. This should not be attached to any zonal administration or to any particular railways. The Committee, I think, has observed that there is no costing as far as the railway workshops are concerned. In my opinion, no costing is possible so long as the workshops are attached to any particular railway administration. The railway workshops should be entirely run on a business basis. The railway workshops should be separated from the individual administration or zone. These zonal railways should be charged for any repairs which they want to be made in their rolling stock or for the engines which they buy or the carriages they purchase on the basis of business transactions. In my opinion, this is the only arrangement which can bring about greater efficiency, greater economy and healthy competition.

Sir, the Committee has stated that there are no less than 256 types of locos, 106 types of coaches, and 84 types of wagons. They have suggested that as far as possible, the locos, carriages, coaches and wagons should be standardised, and these types should be reduced. In order to achieve that object, I believe that the Railways should be regrouped as I have suggested,

and the workshop organisation should be made entirely separate, so that the new workshop organisation can effectively concentrate on the objective without hindrances or narrow outlook.

Coming to the financial structure of our Railways, I feel that the country cannot afford to have any complacency. As it has been pointed out, the financial condition of our Railways is really poor from the business point of view. We have got at our disposal only Rs. 74 crores of depreciation fund. That means, on the average our rolling stock and other assets should be today 90 per cent. new. Is it so? We know that this is not true. Very considerable portion of our assets requires replacement and renewal but we have got only 74 crores of Rupees in our fund. This fund is quite inadequate and poor for our purpose. The suggestion which the Committee has made that during the next five years Rs. 22 crores should be taken towards the depreciation fund is no doubt a welcome suggestion. But, I think it would not be sufficient, to strengthen our finances. They have themselves stated that we will require nearly 25 per cent. augmentation in our carriages in the broad gauge and about 50 per cent. augmentation in the metre gauge, apart from the replacements which they place about 25 per cent. In order to meet all these extra charges at the existing highest prices of replacements, I feel that a larger depreciation fund to the tune of 30 or 35 crores would be necessary for the next five years and a higher depreciation charge than the existing charge for subsequent years. This is a serious matter and I hope it will be considered by the Railway Minister. It has also to be remembered in this connection that during the next 5 or 6 years, we would not be replacing our rolling stock at the usual price but the price we would have to pay will be anywhere from 2½ to 3 times.

Then, Sir, the Committee has stated that a lot of saving can be made as far as the fuel is concerned and they have suggested a target of 2 crores out of 15 crores which Railways are spending today. The Industry Department is managing the collieries. I think those collieries should properly be managed by the Railway itself and not by the Industry Department, if an effective economy is to be made in this direction.

Then with regard to stores, I have only one point to make. The purchase of stores is being done today by three agencies. Excluding rolling stock, stores are purchased to the tune of 16 crores and the Railway, in my opinion is the biggest buyer and therefore, they should set up their own organization for purchasing stores. It is stated that Railways have to pay about 2 per cent. commission for inspection and for purchase to the Civil Supply Industry Department. This Commission is unnecessary. (*Interruption.*) I will finish in a minute or two. I will make a suggestion and with regard to the relation of our Railway administration with its employees and then resume my seat. There is something inherently wrong in dealing with the questions that arise from day to day between the employees and the administration. Much of the discontent and dissatisfaction can be removed if the Railway Administrations set up zonal tribunals for the employees so that these tribunals can deal with questions which arise from lay to day and the suggestion which the Committee has made for appellate tribunal may be considered as an additional facility, but the appellate tribunal will not be able to deal with this question effectively so as to remove the discontent. If the zonal tribunal is established before which any employee who has got any grievances to make can go and get justice done, then I think much of the discontent and dissatisfaction that is prevailing today may be removed and I am sure that the immediate institution of such zonal tribunals will go a long way in improving the efficiency of our Railways.

With these words, Sir, I commend the suggestions I have made to the honourable the Railway Minister.

Shri B. Das (Orissa: General): Sir, when the Interim Ministry took over the Railway Administration from the old Government from Sir Edward Benthall, who became first a member of the Wavell Cabinet, everything was difficult and left in absolute rickety conditions. No replacement took place, rails were torn from the lines and sent to different parts of the Empire and even carriages and locomotives were sent away. In that condition of deteriorating stocks, Mr. Asaf Ali appointed a High Power Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. K. C. Neogy. Later on, Mr. K. C. Neogy had to leave that Committee and join the full Independent Cabinet. Thereafter our esteemed friend, Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru was appointed the Chairman of this Committee, and as I remarked on another occasion, he had produced a most valuable report which will be studied not by the administrators themselves, but by legislators on the floor of this House, so that in course of time we may set up a proper railway administration in this country.

Sir, I was one of those who always opposed a Statutory Railway Authority because the Europeans and the then Government of India at that time *i.e.*, during 1930-1934 wanted to take away completely the Railway Administration from the control of this Legislature. Therefore, I was very much interested to read the chapter which my honourable friend Pandit Kunzru's Committee has suggested about the Central Controlling Authority. There are some weighty arguments there, but I am a bit disillusioned under my own Swaraj Government. We have created the Damodar Valley Corporation Authority. We find it is restive; it is not amenable to audit control and financial control of the Government of India. Then we have the Delhi Central Electricity Authority over which the Government of India has no control. Five or six institutions or bodies elect one director—each liable to the limit of Rs. 50/-, and even the Auditor-General has no control over the Delhi C. E. Authority. Now the biggest corporation or Authority happens to be the Indian Railways. I do not want to go into the history of the Railways but for a very long time the Railways were paying crores and crores of rupees in dividends which they were borrowing from the revenues of the Government of India up to 1924-25. I find some of the Members of this House are restive over the contributions to the General Revenues, but they forget or do not know that the Railways should be run on as a commercial concern and must pay income-tax to the Government and pay for assets belonging to the State. The Damodar Valley Corporation and the Delhi Central Electricity Authority pay income-tax to the State. If the Railways decide to pay, if this House decides that the new Railway Board that we will create will pay proportionate income-tax on their earnings, I and those of my opinion will revise our views whether we need any contribution to the General Revenues. This aspect of the matter must be taken into consideration remembering that most of the land —23,000 miles they have got —they have almost got it for a song. In those days Government lands were given free and various other amenities and favours were shown to those company managed railways and the benefit of which my honourable friends, the Railway Minister and Mr. Santhanam are enjoying. Knowing that spirit of criticism they will understand why the tax-payers must have a contribution in lieu of income-tax on the earnings of the Railways. I have something more to say on this Central Controlling Authority.

I have been considering after reading this report and reading various other administrative reports from other countries why we should not revive again the question. The Railway Administration had become top heavy. The staff that were 4 lakhs before the war had become 8 lakhs now and we cannot dismiss a single man on the staff because my honourable friends (the labour leaders) there will create a howl; they claim zonal recruitment boards and so many boards but they do not want to produce on a man-hour basis. The suggestion is let Mr. Jai Prakash Narain be invited by my honourable friend

Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar; let us view the question from both sides and why the workers of our Railways, the biggest State Industry that we possess should not produce on a man-hour basis; let the scale of wages they will earn be fixed, so that our Government should not become bankrupt. Then the labour population's howl that they must get more wages from the State Industry will lessen and they will come to realize that they must respond to the spirit of the times and increase production in our Railways.

Personally, I feel that we should split up our Railways. In Canada there is a privately managed commercial Railway company; there is also state-owned railway running side by side. I am not asking my honourable friend to advocate it immediately. Let us sleep over for the next five years; let us try to think loudly and find out whether we will not go back again to the commercial systetm of management of our Railways. Any commercial company will be run by Indian industrialists and not by foreign exploiters.

About recruitment of staff on railways the Kunzru Committee has not come to any final decision. But viewed on the whole, I feel we should not split up our Railways, but reduce the number of Railways. By splitting up, we will have to set up a lot of General Managers, Secretaries and other paraphernelia which in turn will require the setting up like our additional Ministries in the Secretariat and by which expenditure will go on this account to 4 to 5 lakhs of rupees for each Ministry or each General Manager's office. My honourable friend Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar differed on this question during the general discussion. But then this situation is not of my making. While I am critical of the railway situation and have been critical during the last 25 years, my friend has taken a hand in it only for the last one year. We differ. I agree to differ from my honourable friend. I should like to have adequate depreciation provided for. Then there will be no contribution available for making to the general revenues. Let there be *quid pro quo*. Then we will examine the question of depreciation put forward by the Railway Ministry. I have since revised my view and I accept the recommendation of the Kunzru Committee for a provision of 22 crores. If that eventuality... .....

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam (Minister of State for Railways and Transport): I want to know whethor the honourable member is willing that the 22 crores a year for the next 5 years should be allowed for depreciation?

Shri B. Das: Is it not so? What is the recommendation of the Kunzru Committee?

The Honourable Shri K. Santhanam: 22 crores for five years.

Shri B. Das: I accept that. Let there be no difference on that. But there should not be any whisper that nothing should be paid to the general revenues by the Railways as was expressed by some of the critics on the floor of the House.

I had hoped that my friends in the Railway Ministry will see that we have intensive manufacture of locomotives, coaches, underframes etc. and that after two years we would not have to go in for purchasing these from the United States or Czechoslovakia. The question which my honourable friend Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar rightly touched this afternoon is a thing that has sapped the credit of India. We have the example of Japan to emulate which realised its aim to be self-supporting quite quickly. We should not spend money on capital borrowing programme and our friends the labour leaders should advise their followers to go in for intensive production.

I find that in the 15 minutes allowed I am unable to survey the entire field of railway administration. I feel satisfied today that our interest is common. There is identity of interest between those who criticise and those

[Shri B. Das]

who are in charge of the administration. When there is that identity of interest, I do expect the spirit in which we offer our observations will be appreciated and understood and not misunderstood as in the old days when we attacked the Railway Board and the Railway Administration. Sir, I am a great optimist. I believe if there is intensive development programme in the Railways we need not buy even a crore worth of stores from outside, not to talk of so many crores worth of locomotives.

I do hope that my honourable friend will place the Kunzru Report before the Railway Standing Finance Committee and ask them to deliberate a whole week and produce a comprehensive report on its recommendations. I have only 15 minutes to talk about my reactions on the report. I do hope the honourable Minister will give the House another opportunity to express its views when the report of the Railway Standing Finance Committee on every item of the recommendations will be available. Otherwise we will have to take our opportunity next year to examine them.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor (U.P.: General): Mr. Chairman, I wish the terms of reference of the Railway Enquiry Committee had also included the question of amenities and facilities for passengers. Railways are public utility concerns and, as such, I think that while efforts must be made to run them with profit, yet the question of facilities and amenities to the passengers must be the primary concern of the administration. As it is, however, the terms of reference of this Committee were only two. Firstly, as to how the net earnings of the Railways should be increased and, secondly, to find out what the surplus staff in the Railways is and how best it could be absorbed in the Railways.

I want to associate myself with the remarks that have been made by the honourable the Railway Minister expressing a sense of gratitude for the labour that has been put in this work by the worthy Chairman of the Committee Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru and the members thereof. This Committee carried on an extensive tour all over the country, examined a large number of witnesses and took about two years to complete its work. For all that, the Chairman and the members are entitled to our gratitude. I wish, Sir, I could, along with the expression of gratitude, offer my congratulations also to the Committee on the results of their work. I am sorry, Sir, I cannot do that. After having spent so much time and money and energy on this work, they should have made definite and precise recommendations as to what measures should be adopted to effect economy and what measures should be adopted to bring about an improvement in the administration. The report is an absolutely disappointing document in that respect. There is no precision and there is no definiteness in most of the recommendations it has made. Its opinions generally lack definiteness and precision and, it seems to me the Committee has been halting, wavering and indecisive. After having discussed the various questions in all their pros and cons, when it comes to the point of making definite recommendations, what do we find? They simply give up the question altogether. They either say that the consideration of the question should be postponed for a number of years, or they say that further analysis of the position should be made, of course, meaning thereby by somebody else, or they say in a very convenient way that much can be said on both sides of the question. That sort of report is hardly helpful to us. If they had made their recommendations in a definite and precise manner it would have been helpful to us. Simply to put together in a very beautiful form the various facts that were brought to their notice by the Railway Board or by the subordinate officials is all very well so far as it goes, but if we cannot make proper use of it or if we cannot come to certain definite conclusions from it or we cannot make any definite suggestions as to how things should be improved, the labour has almost practically been lost in my opinion.

Take the question of the re-grouping of Railways. This is a question which is engaging the attention of the Railway Board and the whole country. What does the Committee say on this question? They say that consideration of this question should be postponed or put off by so many as five years. There would have been some meaning if they had made definite recommendations on this question and had said that in the course of these five years preparations should be made to implement those decisions or recommendations. But they do not say that. They only say that the time is not ripe and the whole question should be put off for five years and after that period, it would be time for us to see how the various Railways should function.

Sir, the question of the E.P.Ry. is a burning question. It is a question, the solution of which cannot brook delay. But then, all that the Committee say with regard to it is that a workshop should be constructed. That is a suggestion which will strike the meanest intelligence. Further on they add, as if it is a very great recommendation or suggestion that workshop should not be far away from the E.P.Ry. It should be on the E.P.Ry. or near about it. That is all they have suggested about the E.P.Ry. This is hardly any solution of this important question. I submit that it is necessary for us here and now, within the course of a few months, to find a definite solution of this question. I would suggest that the E.P.Ry. should be amalgamated with the E.I.Ry. To my honourable friend Pandit Kunzru this may appear to be an astounding suggestion. He may say that the E.I. Rly. is already big enough and if E.P.Ry. is amalgamated with it, it will become unmanageable. May I respectfully draw his attention to the fact that before the partition, N.W. Rly. had a mileage of over 6800 and it worked efficiently well, and if now the E.P.Ry. is amalgamated with the E.I.Ry. the total mileage would be very much less than that, only about 6300. Why then should it be presumed or apprehended that E.P.Ry. when amalgamated will not be able to function properly. But in that case, one thing will have to be done. The Head Office of the E.I.Ry. will have to be shifted from the extreme corner in Calcutta to some central place and that central place appears to be Allahabad or somewhere near about. Even now, it is impossible for the E.I.Ry. with its Head Office at Calcutta to exercise proper supervision over the Railway far away in the extreme west corner of the U.P. I suppose it come up to Ghaziabad. (*Shri R. K. Sidhva*: 'But there are divisional offices.') Of course, there are divisional offices, but certainly it would be a very much better arrangement for more effective control if the head office is situated somewhere in the Centre and that centrally situated place appears to be either Allahabad or Lucknow or somewhere near about. This is my suggestion with regard to the regrouping of the Railways, in a small measure. Of course, it is a big question and I am sure the honourable the Railway Minister and his worthy colleague the Honourable Shri Santhanam putting their heads together will be able to find out a satisfactory solution for it.

Next, I come to the question of economy in fuel. With regard to this also we find that the Committee has not been able to give us any definite suggestion. They have of course said that there should be economy in the consumption of coal and that coal consumption figures are considerably increased. They say on page 93 that the expenses on fuel alone on the Indian Govt. Railways excluding the N.W. and B.A.Rys. amounted to Rs. 502 lakhs in 1938-39 and Rs. 14,64 lakhs in 1946-47. Then they say on the next page, "as the fuel bill of the railways is large, it is unnecessary to stress the importance of economy in the use of this commodity." On the next page 95, they say:

"Under goods services including proportion of mixed, there has been a marked deterioration on almost all the Railways. We have investigated the causes of this deterioration and find that inferior grades of coal available for railway use in recent years had certainly affected consumption figures and led to deterioration."

[Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor]

Then they say: "The scope for economy under this head is of the order of Rs. 2 crores." Having said all that, we would have expected them to make certain definite proposals as to the manner in which economy can be effected.

I have only taken seven minutes.

Mr. Chairman: No, you have taken 13 minutes.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: I will conclude within a few minutes.

But when it came to making definite recommendations, they began to waver and thought that it would not be perhaps safe on their part to make any definite recommendations, and practically they give up their case when they say:

"At the same time we must sound a note of caution. While fuel economy is vital and any appreciable savings would be extremely valuable, over-emphasis on fuel economy may lead to reduction in speed of movement of trains and loss of time. It can also lead to delays to traffic if, as has happened, drivers make excuses to avoid taking out engines known to be 'Coal Eaters'."

Now, Sir, this is hardly a recommendation. I wonder what they want us to do, whether they want us to take effective measures to bring about economy or not. "One of the causes for the increase in coal consumption and expenditure on fuel is poor quality of coal", they say. Well, it may be so, but I would suggest that one of the important causes of the extra expenditure on coal is that there is a good deal of pilferage going on. Of course, pilferage of coal there has always been; there is hardly any railway employee on the track who does not consume the railway coal; that is a different matter— it has been there ever since. But during the recent years, there has been great pilferage of coal due to the fact that coal is very much in need in industrial centres and the transport of coal is not on a proper basis. Near about the industrial centres through which the goods trains pass, a lot of coal is thrown out by the drivers and their assistants—a mile this way and a mile that way of the station, and that is picked up and sold in the market by persons who are in conspiracy with these drivers. Something must be done to put a stop to this evil. I would suggest for the consideration of the honourable Minister that a few watchmen should be placed on either side of these important industrial stations so that the pilferage of coal may not be to such a large extent. There is one point more to which I would refer, and that is the question of surplus labour and surplus staff on the Railways, because that is one point which has been specifically referred to the Railway Enquiry Committee, and here too I find that absolutely no definite and specific recommendation has been made. There is a great divergence of opinion between the majority of the members of the Committee and Shri Guruswami. While the majority of the members of the Committee say that there is a good deal of surplus staff both in the workshops and in the offices and stations, etc., Shri Guruswami says that more staff is needed.

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Shri Haribar Nath Shastri (U. P.: General): Because it was beyond the scope of the Committee to go into this question.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: I do not know, Sir, how this question was beyond the scope of the Committee because one of the terms of reference is, if I may draw attention of my honourable friend...

An Honourable Member: It was taken out subsequently.

Shri Jaspat Roy Kapoor: "Ascertaining the extent of staff surplus to requirements and suggesting practical methods of absorbing them in railway service" was a definite term of reference and in regard to this they have made no definite recommendations. They saw that this is a complicated question and it needs further scrutiny and enquiry. Now, Sir, these honourable gentlemen just tell us after two years that this is a question which needs further enquiry and must be gone into in greater detail presumably by some others.

I therefore submit, Sir, that this Enquiry Committee report has not been helpful to us in any substantial manner. Of course it is helpful to us inasmuch as the compilation of facts and figures go and I would therefore submit, that a small Committee might be appointed—of course not to go round the country—to go into the details that have been furnished by this Committee—a sort of departmental committee—to which some Members of this Assembly may be attached. They may sit in the office and scrutinise all the facts and figures and make recommendations to the Railway Board which may be of some use.

Shri R. K. Sidhva (C. P. and Berar: General): I am really thankful to the honourable Minister for giving an opportunity to the House to discuss this important record. I would have preferred, however, if he also gave us the findings of the special officer that he has appointed to enable the House to understand what are his views, so that we may take a dispassionate view between the report of the Kunzru Committee and the special officer's recommendations, and then the House would have been able to give recommendations with the help of which the Government could come to a definite decision.

But that is not available. Meanwhile, the honourable Minister in his preliminary remarks stated that several of the recommendations of the special officer who was appointed have been complied with and there are 78 items remaining to be considered. If that is so, I am sorry that already the recommendations of the officer have been adopted, although we are not aware what those recommendations are and now we have to give our views on 78 items and I do not know which are they. However, I shall only touch on two or three points on which the Committee has given its views and to which I do not agree and they are in relation to the fares of the suburban electric trains and the composition of Advisory Committees. In paragraph 157 it says: "We consider that the scale of charges for season tickets in the Bombay area is too low and should be reconsidered. We understand that the Board are examining the level of season tickets generally." I am very sorry, with due deference to the Committee members that they have not gone into the question very carefully why these seasonal ticket fares are less in Bombay than anywhere else otherwise I am sure they would have advocated their continuance on other Railways as well. If any attempt is made to increase the fares of seasonal tickets, you will destroy the economic structure of Bombay. Those who know, they will tell you that in Bombay there is a suburban service and people, clerks, workers and businessmen reside nearly 15 to 20 miles from Bombay and they come every day into the city for their vocations. Notwithstanding this service it has the best tramway service in India: notwithstanding that it has the best bus service and the best electric train service in India, for which I compliment the Railway Board, and despite the overcrowding, if any attempt is made to decrease the railway fare, I can assure you that these workers—these so many people who come to work by these trains—will be badly disorganised.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: You mean if any attempt is made to increase the fares!

Shri R. K. Sidhva: We understand that the Board are examining the level of the seasonal tickets generally. I suppose it is a hint that it is very low and when it is very low, it seems the Committee is in favour of increasing the fare. I would submit that these fares should not be touched. On the contrary if you really want the services to be popular and to give relief: if you really want the economic condition of these workers not to be disturbed, then these fares should not in any way be disturbed.

The Committee have made really useful suggestions as regards the increase of these electric trains on the G.I.P., the B.B. and C.I. and the S.I. Railways. I agree with their views. The following figures will startle you as to the great advantage the people take of these suburban trains. From 1938, on the B.B. and C.I the increase in 1947 is 139 per cent.; On the G.I.P. the increase is 182 per cent. compared with 1939; On the S.I.R. the increase is 187 per cent. of passengers compared with 1939. From these facts you can see how popular these trains are and how popular these fares are. If any attempt is made to disturb them, I can assure you that there will be great bowl in this country.

Again, from the figures which the Committee have given, we find that the trains are running at a profit. On the B.B. and C.I. in 1946-47 the earnings per train mile were 4.49 and the cost 1·30. On the G.I.P. the earnings per train mile were 8·25 and the cost 1·39. On the S.I.R. the earnings per train mile were 3·04 and the cost 0·86. Even the cost justifies that these fares should not be disturbed and that the suburban services are a boon to the public.

Coming to the advisory committees, I am sorry I cannot agree with the views of the Committee regarding the recommendations made in rather four or five pages of this Chapter. It is a very important matter and having been on the Advisory Committee of the N.W.R. for 17 years, I can say this, that these local advisory committees have been very useful. Although they are advisory in nomenclature, they have been able to force the administration to do something for the passengers, and I can say from my experience of so many years, that these advisory committees in various places and in various divisions have been responsible for improving water supplies, the lights, the time-tables, the platforms, the window tickets, the third-class waiting rooms, and having special booking offices, more third-class trains and special vendor stalls. I can say that these local advisory committees are responsible for lots of the improvements made from time to time and if there is any idea for reducing or minimizing the importance of these local advisory committees, or even the Central Advisory Committee, I can assure you, Sir, the administration won't be in a position to understand the situation as these Members understand it. The Committee has stated that the C.A.C. is a big committee, a cumbersome committee and its number should be reduced. The membership of the Central Advisory Committee is 20. Really speaking ten persons are members of the C.A.C. and ten are from the Finance side who are automatically members of that committee. They have also representation on the Local Advisory Committee which has been composed with very great consideration and there is justification for it. The Committee asks why should the C.A.C. be composed of the Members of this House. They say that there should not be representation of the municipalities, port trusts, etc. After all they are elected members in the municipalities. They are members of the public and they have some knowledge of the subject. It has been mentioned here that larger representation should be given to the Passengers associations but the Committee recommends that larger representation should be given to industry and commerce. My experience is that, while they are useful in their way they have always been looking to the interests of commerce and industry alone and ignore the travelling public. I can safely say that without contradiction. If you disturb the representation

to the travelling public, from whom the immense earnings are derived, it will not be doing any real service to them, which we are anxious to do, in the Central Advisory Committee. I would emphatically impress upon the honourable Minister that he should not be guided by these suggestions but that he will bear in mind the very useful work done by the Committee. I do not say that because I am a member of this or that committee. I say it from what I have seen. Why should it be stated here that Members of this House should not be represented on the C.A.C. Are we not representative Members here? Do we not represent our constituencies? These 20 Members represent the various constituencies in the whole of India. I therefore suggest that no change should be made in the composition of the Committee.

It has been suggested that there should be frequent meetings of the Committee. I entirely agree. We have been advocating in both committees that there should be at least six meetings in the year against three meetings now held. We also feel that a little latitude should be given to the Members in the new set up. I am sure the honourable Minister is considering the question and the matter is already on the anvil and we are going to take decision on the matter of expanding the constitution of the local Advisory Committee and giving them more power. With the knowledge that he possesses and his experience I hope the honourable Minister will not disturb in any way the composition but on the contrary he will see that the representation is extended. I do not mind giving more representation to industry and commerce. They are very well represented already but they should not in any way reduce the number of representatives of passengers associations and also by indirect method local members representing these bodies. I do feel that this is an important matter. Let it not be understood that the House is in full agreement with the Committee's report. On some matters they may be. On this matter I hope that the two suggestions I have made will be borne in mind seriously by the Government.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (U. P.: General): Sir, the opinions that have been expressed by honourable Members with regard to the report of the Indian Railway Enquiry Committee, if correct, would go to show that the Committee had not understood a single point correctly, that honourable Members here without making any detailed investigation on any point are perfectly right on every point and that the duds who were members of the Committee after having all the facts before them arrived at manifestly wrong conclusions.

Some Honourable Members: No conclusions.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Some honourable Members have complained that the conclusions are wrong: others wiser than them have thought fit to protect themselves by saying that the Committee has made no definite recommendations. The honourable Members who have made this complaint could not have had the time of course to read the report. I do not think they have read even all the recommendations, a summary of which is given at the end of the report. Had they taken the trouble to do so or had they been able to find time from more urgent preoccupations to read the main recommendations they would have easily come to know that there were very definite recommendations made by the Committee on a good many points. For instances with regard to the workshops, the operating efficiency of the Railways and the desirability of having a separate cadre for the commercial department and providing special training for these officers and with regard to the staff the Committee has made definite and detailed recommendations. As regards certain points on which the Committee has not been able to suggest immediate action or has not been able to arrive at a definite finding, had the honourable Members read either the report or the summary of the recommendations and conclusions they would have found what the reasons for these recommendations and conclusions were.

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru]

Take for instance the establishment of a Central Railway Controlling Authority. Is it possible for anybody who has seen the effect of the war and the partition on the Railways to recommend that before things have become much more stabilised than they are at the present time a radical change in the method of managing the railways should be made? Again, take the question of the staff. The honourable Member who spoke on this subject has not taken the trouble to read those paragraphs in the report where this matter has been dealt with. The Committee was unable to arrive at any definite conclusions on this subject partly because the railway administrations did not supply the required information and partly because the Railway Board issued a communique, while the Committee were preparing the report, that as a result of the Adjudicator's award not merely would no reduction in the personnel be possible but an addition to the staff would be required. In view of these facts it was impossible and futile for the Committee to arrive at any conclusion on this subject.

Sir, it is not possible for me to deal with the other charges which were brought by some honourable Members against the general outlook and the recommendations of the Committee. But, I should like to say a word or two about what fell from my honourable friend Mr. Anthony. I am afraid that his vehemence and violence of language will defeat their own purpose.

Mr. Frank Anthony: I was very mild.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: If this is my honourable friend's mildness I should respectfully suggest to his clients to change their counsel, for such a council can ultimately do them no good.

Sir, the Railway Enquiry Committee received evidence with regard to the interests of various classes of railway workers, not merely from the Railway Administrations or the superior railway officers but also from the representatives of the railwaymen. I have yet to come across a single representative of the railwaymen who would be prepared to throw overboard the principle that promotion from one class to another should depend not on seniority but on merit and selection. The very fact that there are separate grades should be obvious to show anybody that promotion from one grade to another should depend on merit and not on the length of service or absence of any adverse criticism. A selection post is so called because you do not select the seniormost man for it but the best person from among a number of meritorious persons. Selection implies a certain amount of competition.

Mr. Frank Anthony: What is wrong with seniority-*cum*-selection? You have avoided that issue.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: My honourable friend forgets that a new principle cannot be invented for him or his clients.

Mr. Frank Anthony: It is as old as the Railways.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: This principle has been applied to all the services and it is a well recognized and well established principle.

Mr. Frank Anthony: It is well abused.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: My honourable friend was very happy in the past because the Members of his community were favoured by the British Government. I do not want that they should labour under any disability. I want them to have the full rights of Indian citizens. If there were any discrimination practised against them by the Railways I should be prepared to join with him in protesting against it.

Mr. Frank Anthony: Are you aware that under this system third-class degree Anglo-Indians have been promoted against first-class degree Anglo-Indians? It is not a question of Community.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: My honourable friend's remark shows that his heart is not against the principle but he disputes the judgment of the selecting authority. Such complaints are often made by unsuccessful competitors.

My honourable friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai speaking about the discontent among the railway workers on account of the manner in which promotions had been made said that no appellate tribunal would be able to make the workers contented and that promotions must be so made as to be regarded as just by them. What he said was true within limits. But frankly speaking, in the vast majority of cases where promotions are made by selection I have found in my experience that there is dissatisfaction with the decision of the selecting authority whether the men belong to the subordinate services or the Provincial Services on the higher services.

Mr. Frank Anthony: May I ask honourable friend what experience he has of railway selection?

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: Sir, I am an Indian. I have had something to do with selection in other departments and the principle adopted in the case of the Railways is not one whit different from that adopted in the other departments. My honourable friend has to show that there are some special reasons why rules that for the time being adversely affect a group of persons in whom he is specially interested should be changed in their favour.

There was one other point of his to which I should like to draw attention. He seemed to suggest—I am not sure that I heard him correctly but he seemed to me to suggest—that a railway worker against whom any serious action was proposed to be taken should be allowed to be represented by counsel. We considered this subject very carefully. We saw that the railway worker was in no worse position in this respect than men in the secretariat of the Government of India. Besides we thought that it would in the end do no good to the railway workers if they were allowed to engage lawyers. Since the Trade Unions are conversant with the grievances of the workers the Committee took the view that a member of the Union to which a worker belonged could accompany him in order to represent his case, and the Committee did so in consideration of the interests of the workers themselves.

Sir, I should now like to put two or three questions to my honourable friend the Minister for Railways. I hope that my honourable friend will announce the decisions of the Railway Board at least in regard to some of the major recommendations of the Committee. He has himself told us that the Railway Board and his Ministry have passed orders, I think, on about twenty recommendations of the Committee. I do not know what those recommendations are or what the decisions of the Ministry are. I hope that when he winds up the debate he will be good enough to give us this information. I should, in particular, like to ask him what action Government have taken on the recommendations of the Committee relating to the better utilisation of power and the establishment of a commercial organisation on every Railway which would have a separate cadre and the members of which would receive special pay. I hope honourable Members are aware of the recommendations made by the Committee with regard to the repair and maintenance of engines and the miles run by an engine per day. I shall not quote any figures because I placed the most important of them before the House during the Railway Budget debate. But I may point out to the House that the deterioration in the workshops is so considerable

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that an improvement of about 34 per cent. on the broad gauge and 71 per cent. on the metre gauge would be required for the production to be equal to the maximum attained during the last 10 years. This is a matter of importance and indeed urgency and I should like to know what action Government propose to take with regard to it. Again, with regard to the better utilisation of power, I pointed out during the Railway Budget debate that the engine miles per day had fallen substantially. I know that the turn-round of wagons has improved and that the Railway Board are taking certain steps to improve the operating efficiency of the Railways, but the proper utilisation of power is the key to the solution of many of our transport problems and I hope that whatever improvement may take place in the turn-round of wagons, the honourable the Minister of Railways will not underrate the importance of taking adequate steps to see that proper methods for the better utilisation of power are followed in future.

As regards the commercial department, I have already stated the points on which I should like to ask for information from my honourable friend.

Lastly, I should like to know the decision of the Government with regard to the training of officers belonging to the various classes from Class I to Class III on which stress has been laid by the Committee. This, too, is a matter of cardinal importance and it should receive the early and full attention of Government. The Committee has not suggested that the workers in Class IV should receive any formal training, but it has suggested that opportunities should be given to them to acquire such knowledge as will promote their advancement. It has in particular suggested, with regard to the workers employed in workshops of various kinds, that they should be given elementary practical training in the use of tools. It has in this connection, suggested the establishment of a basic training school on the same lines as that established by the Tata Iron and Steel Factory at Tatanagar. The Committee had the advantage of seeing this school and of discussing the work done in it with the management of the Factory. It was greatly impressed both with the character of the training and the results achieved. I have no doubt that the recommendations made with regard to the training of the supervisory subordinate staff and the officers will receive the consideration of Government. I am not certain, however, that the recommendations that we have made with regard to the establishment of a basic training institute for certain categories of workmen and for giving adequate opportunities to other workmen to acquire such knowledge as will enable them to advance their interests will not be overlooked. It might be regarded as a minor matter, but I should like to impress on my honourable friend the Minister of Railways that this matter impress on my honourable friend the Minister of Railways that this matter tant matter with which he is, I am sure, concerned is the contentment of the railway workers and nothing will promote contentment so much as a knowledge on the part of the railway workers that by their own exertions they can improve their chances of obtaining promotion in their own grades and of being able also to rise from their own grade to the next higher grade.

Sir, it is late and I know my honourable friend the Minister of Railways will require half an hour to reply to the observations that have been made by various Members. There is a great deal that might be said with regard to some of the observations that have been made by honourable Members, particularly in connection with the views expressed by my honourable friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai with regard to the undesirability of establishing a central controlling authority and having instead zonal authorities. But these questions are so big that it is impossible for me to deal with them now. I should have liked to have the time to discuss the position taken up by my honourable

friend Mr. Desai but I have no doubt that his suggestions will receive the serious consideration of the Government along with the recommendations of the Committee. I should, however, like to say that the suggestion made by him received the anxious consideration of the Committee. The question of the form the future Railway Administration should take was considered repeatedly and very carefully by the Committee. It considered the recommendations of the Acworth Committee in this connection, but, in view of the present situation, the problems that have to be dealt with and the practice of developing what might be called Autonomous Public Service Boards in England for the management and control of socialised services, the committee has thought that a central controlling authority would be able to perform the duty of managing the State Railways much more effectively than the zonal authorities suggested by my honourable friend Mr. Khandubhai Desai.

Sir, I should like, before I sit down, to thank the honourable Minister of Railways for the much too generous reference he made to the part played by me in connection with the preparation of the Committee's report. I am not so vain as to imagine that I deserve even one-tenth of the praise that he so kindly bestowed on me. If there is anything of value in the report, it is due to the labourers of my colleagues, two of whom were distinguished railway officers. The fact that the Committee had expert knowledge at its disposal and that it worked as a team was responsible for such good points as some indulgent Members might occasionally find in it.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: Mr. Chairman, in the few minutes I shall allow myself at this late hour, I shall refer to some, if not all, of the points that were raised by the different speakers in the House. First, my honourable friend Mr. Anthony. He took great exception to that portion of the report of the committee which dealt with discipline. He seemed to disagree with almost everything that the Committee has said in that connection. The particular thing which seems to have angered him is that the Committee not only said something, but quoted something which the Railway Board had said. I do not know if the merit of a particular recommendation of the Committee should be lessened in its value merely because it so happened that the Railway Board had agreed with the Committee's point of view or the Committee agreed with the Railway Board's view previously expressed. The merit of a particular recommendation stands on its own legs. He referred to two or three points. On the question of promotions, I think he has been, if I may say so, conclusively answered by my honourable friend Pandit Kunzru and I do not propose to add a word to what Pandit Kunzru has said in answer to him. The other points one with regard to the question of persons accused of indiscipline first being told of the charge against them, then being given an opportunity of personal hearing and lastly at that hearing being represented by counsel. The last point of the three has been answered by the Chairman of the Committee, that is to say, that the railway servants enjoy the same privileges in regard to this matter of being represented by somebody interested in him, as government servants of a similar type in other departments enjoy.

With regard to the other matter, namely, that often times his case goes by default because he does not know that he has a right to be heard and to ask for a departmental enquiry and therefore does not put forward a claim, I do not know if this is a general grievance. But, if it is, if I find after an enquiry that such a thing does happen generally over the Railways in the country and generally people accused of things do not know that they could ask for a departmental enquiry, I shall certainly consider the question of directing that in every case a charge is brought against a railway servant, one of the first things that should be done should be to give him intimation that he has a right to ask for a departmental enquiry. I hope that this would satisfy my honourable friend if, as I said, it is a general grievance.

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He then referred to rule 1708. I know that amongst the railway servants this particular rule is considered obnoxious. People who suffer by the application of that rule feel that injustice has been done to them because they are dismissed out of service without their being told what it is they are dismissed for. I concede the position that a thing like that if it is adopted as a matter of general application is one to which the greatest exception can be taken. I may inform my honourable friend that at the present moment I have under consideration the question of how best this particular rule might be modified in order to do justice to the person who will suffer by it and I hope we shall evolve some procedure which will remove those aspects of the practice that has hitherto been the subject of so much condemnation. On the question of Class II officers, I am afraid, I cannot agree with my honourable friend, Mr. Anthony. I rather agree with the recommendation that the Committee has made in this connection. It would take me sometime to develop this argument, but I am sure that my honourable friend Mr. Anthony will recognize that, if I came to this conclusion, it has been after giving consideration to all that he has said on this subject, not only during the time I have been here, but during the time that I have not been here.

There was a good deal that was said by my honourable friend, Mr. Khanduhhai Desai, and some of the points that he made were clearly weighty. On the question of zonal authorities, we have not yet taken a decision, nor have we taken a decision on the recommendation which has been made by the Committee itself. As I have repeatedly said, this matter bristles with so many difficulties that we should consider it very carefully indeed, before we reach a decision, but I can assure my honourable friend that whatever he has said today on this subject, will receive my most anxious consideration.

I am very glad really that my honourable friend, Mr. B. Das finally ended up his argument today by saying that he agreed with the Committee that the Depreciation Fund should be replenished and that during the next five years a payment of 22 crores should be made to it in each of those five years. I am glad of his acceptance of a concrete suggestion made by the Committee. I thought his argument the other day could not have led to a conclusion of that sort. I am glad that he has reached that conclusion today.

On the question of payment of income-tax on railway earnings, it raises a very large issue. You have got to remember that the state owns the railway organisations in the country. No doubt some earnings are made and there is a certain amount of interest to be paid and so on and if we are going to accept the proposition that the Railway should contribute to State revenues, the whole amount of the income-tax on the income that it may make, very probably, you will find that General Revenues would not get even the contribution that they get now.

Mr. Sidhva referred to some delinquencies on my part, namely, that I did not detail all the orders that we have passed on certain recommendations of the report, so that I might have given him an opportunity of sitting in judgment on those orders during this debate. I am not certainly taking away his right of sitting in judgement over them. If only he will exercise some patience he will get an opportunity of doing so, after we have published them. The reason why I did not detail these recommendations at the inception of this debate is that I had so little time even to make the preliminary remarks and if I had attempted to refer to all the orders that we have so far passed, I do not think Mr. Sidhva would have had an opportunity to speak during this debate.

On the question of Local Advisory Committees, Mr. Sidhva himself has pointed out that we have the matter actively under consideration, that we are going to take decisions in consultation and in collaboration with him at a meeting to be held very soon. Now, I hope he will press his points as vigorously there as he has done here and if the body which has to take that decision agrees with him we will certainly give effect to that. Now, Sir, I think it is getting very nearly my time. There are some reflections which have been forced upon me by the speech of my honourable friend Pandit Kunzru. It is a matter of some disappointment to me, that on account of what certain honourable Members may have said, it ought to have been necessary for him to stand up in defence of himself and his report during this debate, but I don't see what else he could have done when observations of that sort were made. I wish that honourable Members could have been a little more generous with the Committee and its achievement than some of them have been during this debate. And whatever one may say in disagreement with certain of the recommendations made by the Committee, I think perhaps it was going a little too far to say that the Committee came to no conclusions, that it was absolutely indefinite and inconclusive and so on and so forth. I think the material that we have in this report is of sufficient importance, accuracy and judgment that for some years to come, we shall turn back to this report for some of our facts and figures, some of the history that has preceded the collection of such facts and figures and this report will be something on which we can base a few general principles in the steps we have to take for improving railway administration in the country.

There are one or two things on which my honourable friend wanted some information. The first was the question of the evolution of a separate commercial organisation. I have to say to my honourable friend at once that the Government are considering the recommendations of the Committee in this connection and we have not yet reached a final conclusion on this matter. All that I can say at present is that what the Committee has said will be given full attention to before we reach our conclusions.

With regard to the power position, I think he first referred to a part of the report where it is said that the Railways should work to an average of about 110 miles per day, per engine on line, against a figure of about 90 today. The Committee must realize however, that while the Railway Board agree that this particular target could be achieved, it could not possibly be attained immediately overnight. As new engines come into use, they will be capable of longer average daily mileages than the old engines they replace. A larger number of old engines will be scrapped than are received. While, therefore the individual engine mileage will improve, the number of engines on line will decrease, the two factors together tending to improve the miles per day, per engine on line.

I do not wish to weary the House with more statistics and figures and I would say only one word about the power condition to which the honourable Pandit Kunzru referred. It is true, as the Committee has so insistently pointed out, that the output in railway workshops has demonstrably deteriorated. Our problem is really to correct the trouble that now exists. But the condition precedent to this correction, the major condition precedent if I may call it so, is that labour should play up. I think the Committee itself has referred to this point in more than one place in the report. For this purpose, I think there is something which the labour leaders could contribute. I think the Committee itself has, in one place, appealed to the leaders of the country to take a hand in this matter and impress upon labour the need for giving of its best. They may do so. But what I think is very much more important is that the leaders of labour should contribute a great

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[Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar]

deal more than they do to bring about this state of things. Until we can be assured of what we may expect as the output of labour per man per day, it becomes difficult to plan our programme as regards the improvement of the power position in the future. The Railway Board has been faced with this difficulty of estimating the future man-day output. It is assumed, no doubt, it will improve and return, in say a period of ten years, to the 1938-39 figures. There is thus no case for the permanent expansion of the existing shops to carry the present day load. Modernisation of some of these workshops is, however, a different issue. Now, apart from this question of long-term programme, certain tentative temporary expedients have been adopted for the purpose of providing relief for the next few years. Amongst these are the utilisation of non-railwayshop capacity to the greatest extent possible. An officer has been placed on special duty for six months to explore all un-used capacity and to plan for nationalisation. Secondly, efforts have been made, and seem to be succeeding, to obtain a greater allotment of steel. We have had discussions with the officers of the Ministry of Industry and Supply and it has been arranged that our demands for steel should be given very high priority and that a certain minimum will in any case, be guaranteed. We hope that this promise on the part of Industry and Supply will materialise in the coming year. We shall do all that lies in our power to see that it materialises.

Then, large orders have been placed for new locomotives as the House already knows. These will greately relieve the load of attempting to maintain locomotives beyond their scrapping age.

Lastly, on the question of spare parts we have fully taken into account all that the Committee has brought to notice in this report and partly as a result of that and partly as a result of the investigation which had been carried out by the Railway Board itself, a mission of two or three officers is about to proceed to Europe to draw up contracts with firms to supply manufactured locomotive parts direct to the Railway Administrations. But the main thing is, as I have already said, the need for improving the efficiency and morale of workshop labour. I think, Sir, I have covered most of the points raised.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru: May I ask my honourable friend whether he will circulate the decisions of the Government from time to time to honourable Members? This was done in the case of the Wedgwood Committee. I hope it will be done in this case too.

The Honourable Shri N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar: I think I have already answered a question in the House to the effect that batches of these orders from time to time will be placed in the Library of the House.

ELECTIONS TO STANDING COMMITTEES FOR MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Chairman: I have to inform the Assembly that upto the time fixed for receiving nominations for election of one Member to each of the two Standing Committees for the Ministries of Agriculture and Communications, one nomination in the case of each of these Committees was received. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies in each of these Committees, I declare the following members to be duly elected:

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Agriculture—Sardar Jogendra Singh.

Standing Committee for the Ministry of Communications—Shri Brajeshwar Prasad.

The Assembly then adjourned till a Quarter to Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 29th March, 1949.